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ALL TOGETHER NOW

Members of Burlington's NEXXICE synchronized-skating team take part in Wednesday's opening ceremonies of the 2013 World Figure Skating Championships at Budweiser Gardens. Along with a video montage and speeches by Mayor Joe Fontana and Skate Canada president Benoit Lavoie, the a cappella group Forest City Fire sang O Canada. A synchronized-skating team from Ilderton also took to the ice to welcome the world to London.
More coverage, pages 2, 3, 5 & 30. JOHN MATISZ/METRO

THE NEW MAN IN THE VATICAN

ARGENTINE JORGE MARIO BERGOGLIO — THE NEW POPE — USED TO RIDE THE BUS TO WORK PAGE 6

Sister city comes to call

Nanjing delegation. London a 'safe harbour' for Chinese investors, official says

ANGELA MULLINS
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On paper, it's hard to find the resemblance between London and its sister city of Nanjing, China.

Nanjing stretches 6,598 square kilometres and is home to about eight million people. London is a dot on the map in comparison — about 420 square kilometres with some 366,000 people.

Boasting 53 universities, Nanjing far outperforms London's lonely one. But look deeper, and the family resemblance starts to show, officials say.

Nanjing's economy is bustling with advanced manufacturing, science and technology and digital media, sectors that are also hot in London. And, perhaps most important, China has its sights on North American markets just as local leaders look for an economic boost.

"They're really interested in finding a safe point of entry, kind of like a safe harbour, into the NAFTA market," said John Parker, vice-chair of the London Chamber of Commerce's Asian business opportunities committee. "London can provide that to them."

Parker was one of several business and city leaders who welcomed a Nanjing delegation to London on Wednesday. The group met with politicians at city hall before heading to Western University.

There, they stopped at WORLDiscoveries, the business-development arm of Western, which recently opened an office in Nanjing. They also met with researchers to discuss how China and Canada can work together on research and commercialize its results.

Although Nanjing and London have been sister cities since 1997, efforts to build lasting business ties have been stepped up in the past four years with the promotion of several "entrepreneurial" leaders in Nanjing, said Peter White, president of the London Economic Development Corp.

"The longer-term goal for us is to look at opportunities for co-investment partnerships," White said, noting the visiting delegation represented more than 11,000 companies in Nanjing. "The opportunity is there to develop potential business opportunities."

Just ducky

- London is one of nearly 20 sister cities Nanjing has taken on.
- Nanjing is considered China's "duck capital" because of the quality and quantity of duck served in its restaurants.

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NEWS 1

Skate Canada House

Presented by the London Arts Council, London's Alive with Talent showcases local arts and culture performers at Skate Canada House (schedule subject to change):

Thursday

- **5:10-5:30 p.m. Kalalayam Fine Arts Academy** This Indian Fine Arts school specializes in the Kalakshestra style of Bharatanatyam, a dance form with a repertoire originating in South India more than 5,000 years ago.
- **6-7:10 p.m. The Alfredo Caxaj Latin Ensemble** The ensemble delivers contemporary Latin music, including rhythms such as salsa, cha cha, cumbia, bolero, merengue, and Latin jazz.

Skate Canada House is located in the tent to the south side at Market Square, across from Budweiser Gardens.

Tree of Light

A sound-and-light show created by Montreal-based Moment Factory, running just over 10 minutes in length, is being shown on the east side of Budweiser Gardens.

- **Thursday:** 8 p.m., 10:10 p.m.
- **Friday:** 8 p.m., 10:10 p.m.
- **Saturday:** 8 p.m. 9:30 p.m., 11:20 p.m.

London artist Ryan Mahy, founder and owner of Artfusion, is pictured Wednesday with his graffiti-style take on the Forks of the Thames. The mural, one of several Mahy has created downtown, is at a boarded-up King Street storefront across from Budweiser Gardens. ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Beauty gets on boards

Local arts project.
Bringing new life to empty storefronts

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A few weeks ago, Ryan Mahy looked out the window of his downtown apartment and was greeted with a boarded-up storefront.

"I kept walking by it, thinking, 'I want to do something there,'" the artist said.

From that, a new downtown mural project — used as a way to spice things up for this week's World Figure Skating Championships — was born.

Mahy, owner and founder of the city's Artfusion gallery, hooked up with Downtown London and has spent the past several weeks turning empty storefronts into canvases.

The work started at 189 Dundas St., the building that first got Mahy's creative juices flowing.

There, the artist and his team has created a sort of walking guide to the core, highlighting key streets and buildings.

A few doors down — at 179 Dundas St. — Mahy's about to put the finishing touches on a painting of Martin Moose, the skating championships' official mascot.

On King Street, across the street from Budweiser Gardens, the artist is finishing up a scenic piece inspired by the Forks of the Thames. He also painted the giant exclamation point on Downtown London's temporary office east of Talbot Street.

While the projects were given the go-ahead as part of the skating event, Mahy would like to see the work continue.

The murals were created with that in mind.

"We were really trying to figure out stuff that resonated with everybody, (so) when the games are long gone, there are still pictures there for everybody to enjoy," Mahy said.

An artsy closing

- Artfusion 28, an ongoing monthly cultural showcase, will run 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday in the Artfusion gallery at Citi Plaza.
- The show is considered a cultural reception to mark the final day of competition at the World Figure Skating Championships.
- More than 50 local artists will have their works on display. Area musicians will also perform.

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Bloggers give human feel to Canada's London campaign

The Canada's London marketing push has a pretty straightforward mandate: Let's make sure people around the globe are fully aware this place is unique.

What its blogger series is attempting to do is put faces and names — a humanized element — to this uniqueness.

"I want to make Londoners proud of the great stuff that is coming out of this city and is going to keep coming out of this city," blogger Douglas Keddy said.

"Blogging is a different platform, certainly. You can get away with a little bit more, have a little bit more fun with it, and get creative."

Four Londoners have been given the opportunity to express themselves on a given topic related to the city.

Canada's London bloggers

- Anam Islam (@Anam_Islam on Twitter)
- Douglas Keddy (@theworldbeckons)
- Ed Jackman (@EdJackman)
- Jo-anne Bishop (@jo_mAmA)
- Maximilian Specht (@maxamilli)

Each will publish about five blog posts over the course of the 2013 World Figure Skating Championships.

Keddy, a 37-year-old Western University communications and marketing official, is writing in the education and research section on Canada's London website.

It's called Alive with Innovation.

Other sections include Alive with Flavour (food and beverage), Alive with Movement (recreation and sports), and Alive with Culture (arts and entertainment).

"I just want people to be able to be in conversation and say, 'Yeah, I'm from London, Ontario, and we've done this, this is out of London.'" Keddy added.

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

London police walking the skating beat

It's not your typical week in downtown London. And police aren't treating it like one.

With sidewalks — and streets — noticeably busier than usual, the police service has stepped up core patrols, stationing multiple officers on corners near Budweiser Gardens.

Officers are working the beat around the clock, with manpower differing throughout the day and night.

The goal is keeping a watchful eye over the estimated 35,000 visitors in town for this week's World Figure Skating Championships, Const. Ken Steeves said.

"We are committed to providing a safe and secure community, and want to ensure this commitment is provided to the visitors from around the world, as well," he said.

So far, the crowds have been well-behaved. Officers have even spent at least portions of their downtown shifts doling out directions and helping drivers navigate detours.

"Often times, (people are) hesitant with approaching strangers for assistance," Steeves said. "Just having the increased police presence will assist with that."

CONTRIBUTED

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Downtown London moves into new digs

World Figure Skating Championships.

Welcome Centre moved to the heart of the international event — and it's paying off

JOHN MATISZ
john.matisz@metronews.ca

Downtown London's temporary relocation to the heart of the festivities surrounding the World Figure Skating Championships has paid off, officials said Wednesday.

The Downtown London Welcome Centre (123 King St.) opened Monday, and has seen hundreds walk through its doors each day, program co-ordinator Kathy McLaughlin says.

Aside from expected inquiries, such as where a particular restaurant is located and which nearby shops sell souvenirs, McLaughlin says there's been a few surprising requests from skating fans.

Yuki Hirayama, right, of Tokyo, receives directions Wednesday afternoon from 2013 World Figure Skating Championships volunteer Sue McKechnie inside the Downtown London Welcome Centre. JOHN MATISZ/METRO

"There have been way more requests for transit information than anticipated," she said, adding a few people have also popped in to ask for directions to the nearest vintage clothing shop.

Although Europeans are the most frequent visitors, McLaughlin and her staff have greeted folks from all across the globe, including many from Asia.

"The people here are so friendly," said Yuki Hirayama, a Welcome Centre visitor from Tokyo. "We are hosting it next year, so I want to see all of the (skating) programs before."

The Welcome Centre is open from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily until Saturday. It then reopens Sunday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

London LAWN

Out-of-province attention

The success of the London LAWN outdoor public Wi-Fi system is becoming well-known in places as far as British Columbia, according to Downtown London program co-ordinator Kathy McLaughlin.

Someone working for a Vancouver-area city councillor has been in contact with Downtown London about London LAWN. The councillor is thinking about using a similar system as part of its campaign platform in a future election.

London LAWN can be accessed in certain spots in the city's core. As of Wednesday, about 6,400 unique users had signed on since launching last year. METRO

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Capturing the essence of Tessa

Art Skate London.
Artist aims to make ice dancer come alive through skates

ANGELA MULLINS
angela.mullins@metronews.ca

Dan Tamborro isn't a Tessa Virtue groupie. In fact, he's not even a big fan of figure skating. "I respect it," the London artist said. "But I'm not a follower."

Despite that, he made a bold request when someone from The Arts Project phoned him up and asked him to get involved in Art Skate London, an exhibit and auction in conjunction with the World Figure Skating Championships.

"I said, 'I want to do either Scott (Moir) or Tessa's skates,'" Tamborro recalled, noting he was half-joking at the time.

Turns out he got his wish.

Of the 22 skates-turned-sculptures up for auction this week at The Arts Project (203 Dundas St.), Tamborro's is the only piece that was once laced up by a legend.

While the 19 other artists involved worked with generic skates, Tamborro used a pair of Virtue's practice skates as his canvas. At first, Tamborro said, he didn't think much of it. Then, the connection came.

"It was more powerful when I went back to my studio," he said. "I'm looking at these skates. I'm looking at the wear and tear on them. I'm seeing they are one segment, one part of (Virtue's) journey."

After a fair bit of research, including reading Virtue and Moir's autobiography, Tamborro was able to transform the skates into something that, in his words, does justice to Virtue and his work as an artist.

"At the beginning I kind of stressed out a bit," Tamborro said. "All the variables were coming together in my head."

The bottom line though? "I've had fun," he said.

London artist Dan Tamborro with a pair of Tessa Virtue's practice skates that he turned into a sculpture as part of Art Skate London. ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

At a glance

- In turning a pair of London native Tessa Virtue's skates into sculpture, Dan Tamborro tried to highlight moments of the ice dancer's path to success and her off-ice personality.
- The skates combine an element of Tamborro's graffiti style with Virtue's date of birth, the date she earned Olympic gold and representations of key places she's lived and trained in.
- Artists behind the skates up for auction during Art Skate took similar approaches to capturing a piece of 22 World Figure Skating Championships competitors.
- Bids must be placed by 1 p.m. Saturday. Visit artsproject.ca for details.

Getting ready to take on the World

Olympic bronze medallist Joannie Rochette, 27, poses Wednesday for a photo with figure-skating fan Gordie MacKenzie, 62, of London, during an autograph session in the Budweiser Gardens concourse prior to the 2013 World Figure Skating Championships opening ceremonies. JOHN MATISZ/METRO

Teen praised for saving man

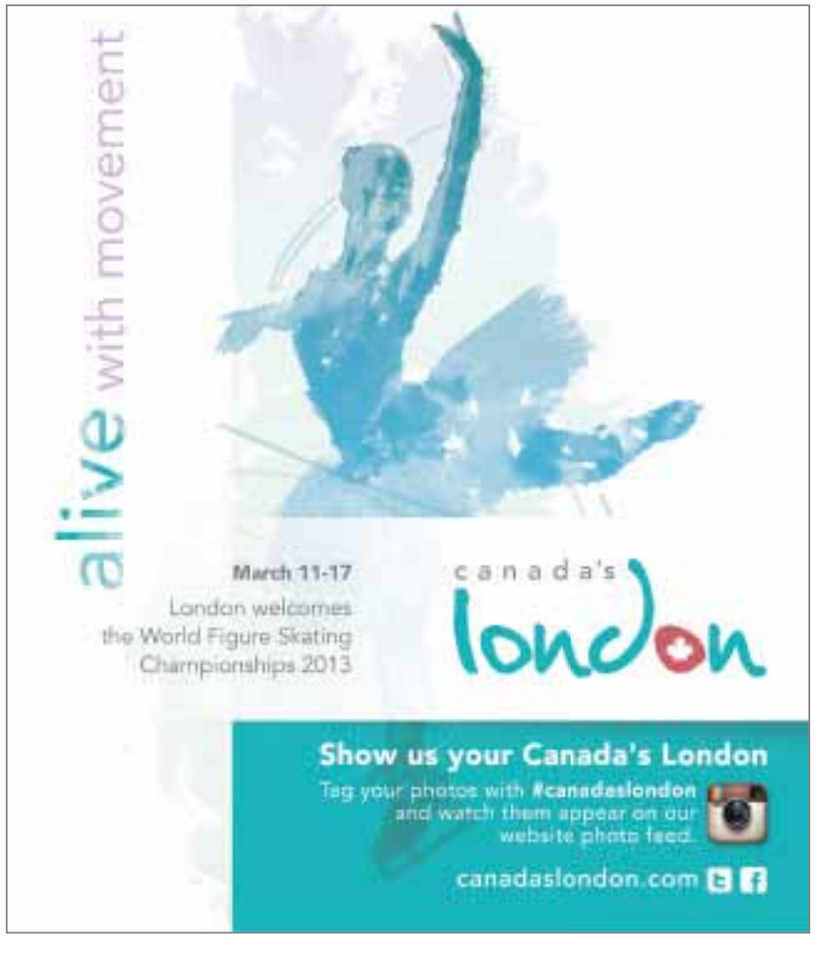
London police and firefighters are praising the courage and quick thinking of a 15-year-old boy who saved a man from the Thames River.

Evan Spindler noticed a man in a wheelchair in distress along the edge of the Thames just after 4 p.m. Tuesday. The man rolled to the edge of the river near Harris Park to feed the birds, but his wheelchair slid and he got stuck in waist-deep freezing water.

Spindler saw the man struggling, ran from his house, crossed the Blackfriars Bridge, and waded into the river to pull the wheelchair from the water. "He was very grateful," said Spindler. "He was thankful that I got him out of the cold water."

Police Chief Brad Duncan said Spindler may be eligible for special recognition for bravery from the police department.

"We've already received a written report … that this fellow went beyond what we would expect normal citizens to do," Duncan said. "He's definitely going to receive some recognition for what he's done." AM980/AM980.CA



The man: Argentina's Jorge Bergoglio appears at the window of the St. Peter's Basilica balcony in Rome after being elected the 266th pope. OSSERVATORE ROMANO/GETTY IMAGES

Hail humble Pope Francis, 'from the end of the Earth'

'Good evening.' After one of the fastest conclaves in years, an ecstatic world greets the new man in the Vatican

The euphoria: Cheers ring out from the crowd in St. Peter's Square in Rome as white smoke is sighted rising from the Sistine Chapel's chimney. LUCAS OLENIUK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Hail the humble Pope!

A cacophony of welcome swept the world on Wednesday after Jorge Bergoglio of Argentina was elected Pope in a conclave that ended with astonishing speed.

"Brothers and sisters, good evening," the new Pope Francis — looking stunned — said shyly to wild cheers from the loggia of St. Peter's Basilica.

"You know that the work of the conclave is to give a bishop to Rome," he went on.

"It seems as if my brother cardinals went to find him from the end of the Earth, but here we are. Thank you for the welcome.''

Bergoglio, 76, becomes the first pontiff from the Americas and the first from outside Europe in more than a millennium.

And by choosing the name Francis, he associates himself with the humble 13th-century Italian preacher who lived a life of poverty.

Across the planet, Latin Americans burst into tears and jubilation at the news that the region, which counts 40 per cent of the world's Catholics, finally had a pope to call its own.

"It's a huge gift for all of Latin America. We waited 20 centuries. It was worth the wait," said Jose Antonio Cruz, a Franciscan friar in the Old San Juan district in Puerto Rico.

Elected on the fifth ballot, Francis was chosen in one of the fastest conclaves in years, remarkable given there was no clear front-runner going into the vote and that the church had been in turmoil following the upheaval of Pope Benedict's resignation.

Tens of thousands of people who braved cold rain to watch the smokestack atop the Sistine Chapel jumped in joy when white smoke poured out, many shouting "Habemus Papam!" or "We have a pope!" — as the bells of St. Peter's Basilica and churches across Rome pealed.

After what seemed an unending wait of more than an hour, they cheered again when the doors to the loggia opened. The cheers became deafening when Bergoglio's name was announced.

"I can't explain how happy I am right now," said Ben Canete, a 32-year-old Filipino, jumping up and down.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"We have Messi and we have the Pope now!"

Jubilant Gabriela Pisquariello, an owner of the Bueno Aires Bakery and Café in Miami's Little Buenos Aires, referring to star Argentine soccer player Lionel Messi.

The Francis era begins ... with mass, plaudits and a historic installation

Pope Francis will quickly get down to work.

- **Thursday.** On Thursday morning, he'll celebrate mass in the Sistine Chapel with the cardinals.
- **Thursday-Friday.** At the Apostolic Palace, he will answer congratulatory messages from heads of state.
- **Sunday or Monday?** His formal installation as Pope. He will receive the symbols of his office — including the Fisherman's Ring, which bears the image of St. Peter.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Big-hearted cardinal

He rode the bus and cared deeply for the poor

As a cardinal, Jorge Mario Bergoglio — the new Pope — rode the bus and visited the poor.

He was known all over Argentina for caring for the destitute.

Bergoglio was born in December 1936 in Buenos Aires, one of five children of an Italian railway worker.

He had a lung removed when he was a teenager due to an infection.

He studied chemistry and then philosophy at university before teaching literature and psychology in Argentina.

He joined the Jesuit order in 1958 before being ordained a priest in 1969.

From 1973 to 1979 he served as the Jesuit provincial in Argentina, then in 1980 became the rector of the seminary where he studied.

He served there until 1986 after which he completed his doctorate in Germany and returned to Argentina.

He was appointed Buenos Aires city archbishop in February 1998 and made cardinal by John Paul II in February 2001.

Bergoglio created new parishes, restructured administrative offices and begun new pastoral projects, helping to recover the church's traditional political influence in society.

But his legacy as cardinal includes repairing the reputation of a church that failed to challenge Argentina's 1976-83 military dictatorship.

He has also been critical of Argentina's decision to legalize gay marriage in 2010.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Jorge Bergoglio regularly visited the slums of Argentina's capital.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Putin hopes to revive Stalin-era school-fitness testing

Russia. Program's early focus was on preparing students for service in Red Army

Russian President Vladimir Putin called Wednesday for the revival of a Soviet-era physical-evaluation program that required all school-children to pass fitness tests.

GTO, the Russian acronym for Ready for Labour and Defence, was introduced in 1931 under Soviet dictator Josef Stalin's rule. It required all school and university students to regularly pass physical-training tests. Those managing to qualify would receive silver- or gold-coloured badges.

In its early years, the GTO program focused heavily on tests intended to make children ready for Red Army service. The program gradually lost its scope and prestige over the years and ceased to exist with the 1991 Soviet collapse. Since then, schools have largely been left on their own regarding physical education.

Putin said that Russia needs to pay more attention to physical training because it lags behind other countries. He said that Russian children now are in "significantly worse" physical shape compared to a few decades ago.

Putin is a judo enthusiast and regular swimmer.

He said that the training standards must be flexible. "They shouldn't be too high, to avoid driving people into a heart attack," he said, according to Russian news agencies.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Purpose

Children will learn "to stand up for themselves, their family and, in the final run, the Fatherland."

Russian President Vladimir Putin

Russian President Vladimir Putin and actor Steven Seagal speak to an athlete as they visit a new sports arena in Moscow on Wednesday.
ALEXEI NIKOLSKY, RIA-NOVOSTI/PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SERVICE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sexism. North Korea hurls insult at female president

North Korea's first public, senior-level mention of South Korea's first female president ended up being a sexist jab. The body that controls North Korea's military complained Wednesday about the "venomous swish" of her skirt.

The term is often used to describe aggressive women, such as micromanaging housewives.

But despite that swipe and rhetoric from Pyongyang threatening nuclear war, President Park Geun-hye is sticking by her vow to reach out to North Korea and to send humanitarian aid.

North Korea has a history of sexist comments. Before she became president, a poem carried by a government site described Park as a "dirty prostitute" who pulls up her skirt in front of the U.S. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

South Korean President Park Geun-hye
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Brazil

Doctor arrested in fake-finger fraud

A doctor in Sao Paulo was arrested after being caught using fake fingers made of silicone and imprinted with real fingerprints to defraud a hospital's biometric punch-in clock, according to the Brazilian newspaper O Globo.

Police told the paper the suspect confessed to using fake fingers bearing the prints of 11 fellow doctors and 20 nurses to help his colleagues pretend they were showing up to work for five overnight shifts each month instead of just one. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BlackBerry. Shares jump after mystery buyer orders one million smartphones

Shares of BlackBerry rose more than eight per cent on Wednesday after the company announced it has sold one million of its new smartphones to a mystery buyer.

The Waterloo-based company said an "established partner" made the purchase, though a spokeswoman for the company said confidentiality reasons prevent it from revealing the identity.

The company said shipments will start immediately.

"An order for one million devices is a tremendous vote of confidence in BlackBerry 10," said Rick Costanzo, executive vice-president of global sales.

It's the first time the smartphone maker has revealed sales data for its new devices.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sales

Chief executive Thorsten Heins has said the new BlackBerry Z10 touchscreen phone is selling better than the company expected, while carrier Bell said last month that pre-orders broke its previous records for BlackBerry.

The BlackBerry Z10, showing off its video features. MARIO TAMA/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Edmonton

Schizophrenic not criminally responsible for stomping inmate to death in prison

A judge has found a schizophrenic man not criminally responsible for the stomping death of an inmate at an Edmonton jail.

The ruling came Tuesday in the case of Justin Somers, who had been charged with second-degree murder in the beating at the Edmonton Remand Centre.

Somers, who is 27, had been deemed in a psychiatric assessment as a possible risk to other people.

Court heard Somers was in a cell in May 2011 for breaching bail conditions when he attacked Barry Stewart.

The 60-year-old man had been arrested after failing to pay a fine for riding on public transit without paying the fare.

Somers' trial was told the accused stomped on Stewart's head 26 times before he was stopped by guards.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Garneau drops out, backs Trudeau

Federal Liberal leadership. 'I cannot mathematically win,' former contender says

MP Marc Garneau speaks during a press conference on Parliament Hill on Wednesday to announce his withdrawal from the Liberal leadership race.
SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Marc Garneau dropped out of the federal Liberal leadership race on Wednesday and threw his support to front-runner Justin Trudeau, declaring the outcome "a fait accompli."

The Montreal MP's decision followed an internal poll conducted by his campaign last week, which Garneau said showed Trudeau has the backing of 72 per cent of Liberal members and supporters.

Garneau said he was a "solid second" with 15 per cent, followed by Vancouver MP Joyce Murray with just over seven per cent and former Toronto MP Martha Hall Findlay with just over five per cent.

"I have done my numbers. I cannot mathematically — and I'm a person who believes in math — I cannot mathematically win," Garneau told a news conference.

"I'm not into denial. The numbers indicate very clearly that Justin is the overwhelming favourite."

However, Murray said she puts no stock in Garneau's survey, the methodology of which her camp finds highly suspect. She said it won't influence her decision to continue her campaign, which has enjoyed a late burst of momentum.

Murray said she was surprised by Garneau's decision to endorse Trudeau, given that he has repeatedly said a coronation is not in the party's best interests and has accused the front-runner of lacking policy depth, experience and leadership credentials.

Worried that some 100,000 people who didn't provide email addresses — the bulk of whom are Trudeau supporters — will be disenfranchised, the front-runner is seeking a one-week extension of Thursday's registration deadline. The Murray, Hall Findlay and Martin Cauchon camps oppose an extension.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Automated phone poll

Poll problems

Garneau's automated phone poll asked 6,000 Liberal supporters and members to indicate whether they favoured Garneau, Trudeau, Hall Findlay or Murray, in that order and without mentioning the other four contenders.

It was a not a survey of registered voters. Less than a third of the 294,000 party members and supporters have so far registered to vote.

Garneau's survey also didn't take into account the fact that the results will be weighted to give each riding equal clout, whether they have 1,000 registered voters or 100. Without knowing the distribution of each candidate's support, it's impossible to accurately predict the outcome — although no one disputes Trudeau is in the lead.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

XL pipeline is in U.S.'s interest, Prentice says

Former Conservative cabinet minister Jim Prentice says the Keystone XL oil pipeline is in the U.S. national interest and that President Barack Obama should let it be built.

The speech by Prentice, now a senior executive at CIBC, stresses the importance of the Canada-U.S. relationship and argues the two countries must work together to achieve North American energy independence.

"Stated simply, I am strongly of the view that President Obama should approve the Keystone XL pipeline on the basis that it is in the national interest of the United States," he told the Financial Times Forum in New York.

"I say this because North America is accelerating towards a future of energy independence and the Canadian oilsands are an essential part of the North American energy marketplace.

"That resource will afford both Canada and the United States security of supply and a consequential global competitive advantage for generations."

Former cabinet minister Jim Prentice
SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A draft environmental report into the $5.3-billion pipeline released by the U.S. State Department earlier this month flagged no major environmental concerns with the project and said it was unlikely to affect the pace of oilsands development or U.S. oil consumption.

It will be a few more months before Obama decides whether to sign off on the long-delayed controversial project, which would deliver 830,000 barrels per day of mostly oilsands crude to U.S. markets.

Prentice, who handled the environment and industry portfolios when he was in government, says a rejection would force U.S. and Canadian producers to ship their crude by less efficient means, such as rail, and provide "an artificial competitive advantage for heavier crudes from less democratic, less market-oriented countries."

Prentice's remarks come days after the New York Times published an editorial urging Obama to say no to Keystone XL.

"A president who has repeatedly identified climate change as one of humanity's most pressing dangers cannot in good conscience approve a project that — even by the State Department's most cautious calculations — can only add to the problem," it said.

Meanwhile, a parade of Canadian politicians has been through Washington pushing for approval. NDP Leader Tom Mulcair, however, has not made the pipeline a focus of his trip to the U.S. capital. He has said it's up to the Americans to decide. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Making time to smell the goats

PM Stephen Harper and his wife, Laureen, stop to pet a goat, the mascot of the Governor General's Foot Guards, while waiting for the arrival of French PM Jean-Marc Ayrault on Parliament Hill on Wednesday. The Harper government will use the visit to burnish its tarnished reputation in Europe. France and Canada will sign a joint declaration Thursday on an initiative to create biofuels from seaweed. FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Montana

Death penalty survives repeal bid

A proposal to abolish Montana's death penalty has failed again, a blow for Canadian Ronald Smith, a convicted murderer who has been on death row in the state for 30 years.

A bill to repeal capital punishment didn't get past a judiciary committee which, for the fourth time in eight years, voted to table the bill. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Victoria

Would-be robber nabbed in return to bank: Police

Would-be bank robbers, listen up. If at first you don't succeed, don't go back to the scene of the crime to check on the investigation. A 39-year-old Victoria man is getting a chance to mull that lesson from jail after being picked up on Tuesday. Police didn't have to go far to find him because an employee spotted him peering in the bank's windows as officers were responding to the attempted heist earlier in the day. THE CANADIAN PRESS

‘Substantial threat.’ Fear of jihadists grows in the Netherlands

The Dutch government raised its terror threat Wednesday amid concerns that Dutch citizens travelling to Syria to fight in the civil war could return battle-hardened, traumatized and further radicalized.

The government cited the threat posed by jihad fighters returning from Syria, where rebels are battling government forces, and signs of increasing radicalization among Dutch youth as key reasons for lifting its threat level from “limited” to “substantial.” The level now is the second-highest on the four-step scale, just below “critical.”

“The chance of an attack in the Netherlands or against Dutch interests abroad has risen,” the country’s National Co-ordinator for Security and Counterterrorism said in a statement.

The warning comes just two months before hundreds of thousands of people are expected to descend on Amsterdam for mass celebrations around the abdication of Queen Beatrix and coronation of her son, Crown Prince Willem-Alexander.

Counter-terror chief Dick Schoof said nearly 100 people had travelled from the Netherlands to Africa and the Middle East, mainly to Syria, to fight, and warned that it is not just a Dutch problem.

“These jihadist travellers can return to the Netherlands highly radicalized, traumatized and with a strong desire to commit violence, thus posing a significant threat to this country,” Schoof said in his statement. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

France also afraid

- Last month, France also expressed concerns about its citizens heading to Mali to join radical Islamic fighters there, even as the French army was fighting the Muslim rebels in its former colony.

Germany bans 3 Islamic extremist groups

Fighting radicalization. Country’s intelligence head says Salafis are acting aggressively and militantly in their prayer rooms, online and on the streets

German authorities banned three ultraconservative Islamic groups Wednesday and separately announced they had foiled a suspected assassination attempt by Islamic extremists against a prominent far-right politician.

The groups included one whose Internet propaganda videos helped inspire the extremist who killed two American airmen at Frankfurt airport in 2011, the country’s domestic intelligence chief said.

Police launched early morning raids on 21 apartments and one meeting room belonging to DawaFFM, Islamic Audios and al-Nussrah — all of which adhere to the hardcore conservative Salafi interpretation of Islam.

The groups were largely involved in recruitment, fundraising and propaganda, including videos and other postings urging people to fight against those who did not believe in their version of Islam, said Hans-Georg Maassen, the head of Germany’s domestic intelligence service, the Office for the Protection of the Constitution.

“These organizations are oriented against the basic right to freedom of religion — against Christians and other faiths including Shiites,” Maassen said.

For example, he said, in one DawaFFM YouTube posting, an Arabic speaker told Shiite Muslims: “If the Prophet Muhammad heard your words he’d hack off your hands and feet and banish you from the earth.” THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

German Interior Minister Hans-Peter Friedrich, seen through a television camera viewfinder, says Wednesday’s move to ban three ultraconservative Islamic groups should be seen as a “clear sign against those who practise exclusion, violence and intolerance.” MARKUS SCHREIBER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Egypt. Brotherhood decries UN women’s-rights document

Egypt’s Muslim Brotherhood sharply criticized an anticipated UN document on combatting violence against women, saying on Wednesday that it was “deceitful,” clashed with Islamic principles and undermined family values.

The text or details of the document have not been published yet, but it may be issued at the end of a meeting of the UN Commission on the Status of Women this week in New York. Negotiations have been bogged down in debate.

According to the Brotherhood, which has emerged as the most powerful political faction in Egypt since the 2011 uprising, the draft under discussion advocates sexual freedoms for women and the right to abortion “under the guise of sexual and reproductive rights.”

In its strongly worded statement, the Brotherhood also decried the document’s defence of homosexual rights, which are not recognized in Islam, and the equating between children born in and out of wedlock. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

An Egyptian woman shouts anti-Muslim Brotherhood slogans during a protest in Cairo last week on International Women’s Day. AMR NABIL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Venezuela

Chavez’s body embalmed too late for display: Acting president

Venezuela’s acting president said Wednesday it is highly unlikely that Hugo Chavez will be embalmed for permanent viewing because the decision to do so was made too late and the late socialist leader’s body was not properly prepared in time.

“The decision should have been made much earlier,” Nicolas Maduro said during a speech at a government-run book fair. “The decision, or really the proposal more than a decision, was made as a product of love.”

President Chavez died on March 5. The decision to preserve his body permanently was announced two days later.

His embalmed body was to be put on display at a military museum on a hill a mile from the presidential palace, where it was to have been transferred on Friday.

Maduro suggested the body would still be placed there.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Natural gas. Price tag on nixed plants at least $828 million, expert says

The cost of cancelling two gas plants in Oakville and Mississauga is closer to $828 million, more than three times what the governing Liberals insist taxpayers will bear, an energy expert said Wednesday.

The cost of the Oakville plant — which was cancelled in 2010 — is about $638 million, not $40 million as the Liberals have said, Bruce Sharp told a legislative committee that's looking into the gas-plant cancellations.

The mechanical engineer, who says he's spent 25 years in the energy sector, said relocating the plant will cost $40 million, but there are extra costs, said Sharp, who works for Aegent Energy Advisors.

He's pegged gas-delivery and management costs at $313 million and transmission costs at $359 million.

"My view is that there are so many people making money in so many different ways in the sector, that when something goes wrong, no one wants to talk about it," he told the committee.

Sharp said he agreed that the cost of relocating another plant in Mississauga will cost about $190 million, but that could have been at least $28 million lower because it will cost less money to deliver natural gas to its new site in Sarnia.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Political reaction

Premier Kathleen Wynne said she was unaware of any additional costs to the Oakville plant cancellation.

- "I've been very clear about the information that I have been given, so the numbers that I've talked about are the numbers that I knew," she said.
- The Liberals knew that it would cost much more than they let on, both the Tories and NDP said.

Quebecers march in the cold for fee freeze

Protesters opposing Quebec student-tuition fee increases demonstrate in Montreal, Tuesday. The march was reminiscent of nightly protests that took place during last year's student unrest, dubbed the Maple Spring. Most of those protests were peaceful, but some marches turned violent and led to mass arrests.

GRAHAM HUGHES/THE CANADIAN PRESS

No serious injuries

Zookeeper let go after ape escape

A zookeeper has been shown the door after being found responsible for the escape of several western lowland apes — which can weigh as much as 270 kilograms — at the Calgary Zoo.

The zoo says a review of what happened determined the zookeeper failed to properly latch a door. THE CANADIAN PRESS

June collision

Alcohol a factor in golf-cart death

A 52-year-old Edmonton man who died at a North Okanagan, B.C., golf course had more than twice the legal blood-alcohol limit when he drove his golf cart over a precipice.

Coroner Andrew Cave found Glenn Daniel Thordarson's cart slammed into a rock face at the Predator Ridge course, near Vernon. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Japan gives Canada $1M thank you

Tsunami of 2011.
Money is meant to help clean up debris swept across the ocean

After an earthquake and tsunami devastated Japan two years ago, Canada was among the first nations to offer help.

Within a few days, millions of dollars had already been donated for tsunami relief by Canadians, and the federal government had pledged equipment and funds.

Japan offered thanks on Wednesday, with a $1-million "token of gratitude" that will go toward the cost of cleaning up tsunami debris that washes up on West Coast shores.

"Canadians from all walks of life opened their hearts to the victims," said Japanese Consul General Seiji Okada, reading a message from Japanese ambassador to Canada Kaoru Ishikawa.

Contributions to the Canadian Red Cross tsunami-relief fund alone totalled almost $50 million, he noted. Canada and Canadians were at the forefront of an overwhelming international response to the tragedy, Okada said.

"Even more uplifting during those dark days, however, was the sincere compassion and the solidarity conveyed to the Japanese people by individual Canadians of all ages, living from coast to coast," Okada said at a news conference in Vancouver.

Federal Environment Minister Peter Kent said Ottawa will turn the money over to the province, which earmarked the funds for coastal communities and First Nations that are dealing with the cleanup. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Solidarity

Canada "proved to be a stalwart and reliable friend throughout the most difficult of times."

Japanese Consul General Seiji Okada, reading a message from Japanese ambassador to Canada Kaoru Ishikawa.

Ocean debris believed to be from Japan is posed for a photograph on Long Beach in Tofino, B.C., on April 18, 2012. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Stomach full of change.
Dog in New York City gulps down over 100 pennies

A New York City dog has undergone emergency surgery to remove more than 100 pennies from his stomach.

The New York Daily News reports that a Jack Russell terrier named Jack swallowed 111 pennies last week and quickly became ill.

The 13-year-old pooch's owner rushed him to a Manhattan veterinarian for emergency surgery.

That's when dog doctors put Jack under anesthesia and methodically removed all 111 coins. The zinc from the coins could have been lethal.

The dog's owner told the newspaper his best friend is back to his normal self: driving him crazy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A $1.11 tip for the surgeon. BLUEPEARL VETERINARY PARTNERS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Viral video

Man fired after wrestling shark on sick leave

A 62-year-old British man who became an Internet sensation after wrestling with a shark on an Australian beach says he was fired after his employer discovered he'd been abroad while on sick leave.

Paul Marshallsea was filmed yanking a six-foot-long shark away from waders at Caloundra beach near Brisbane in January.

But his intervention also caught the eye of his employer, the Pant and Dowlais Boys & Girls Club, a Welsh charity. Marshallsea had been on leave since April after saying he was suffering from work-related stress.

Marshallsea told local news website WalesOnline he was unhappy at his treatment, adding that his doctor had advised him to take a vacation.

A man who answered the phone at the charity Wednesday said no one was immediately available for comment.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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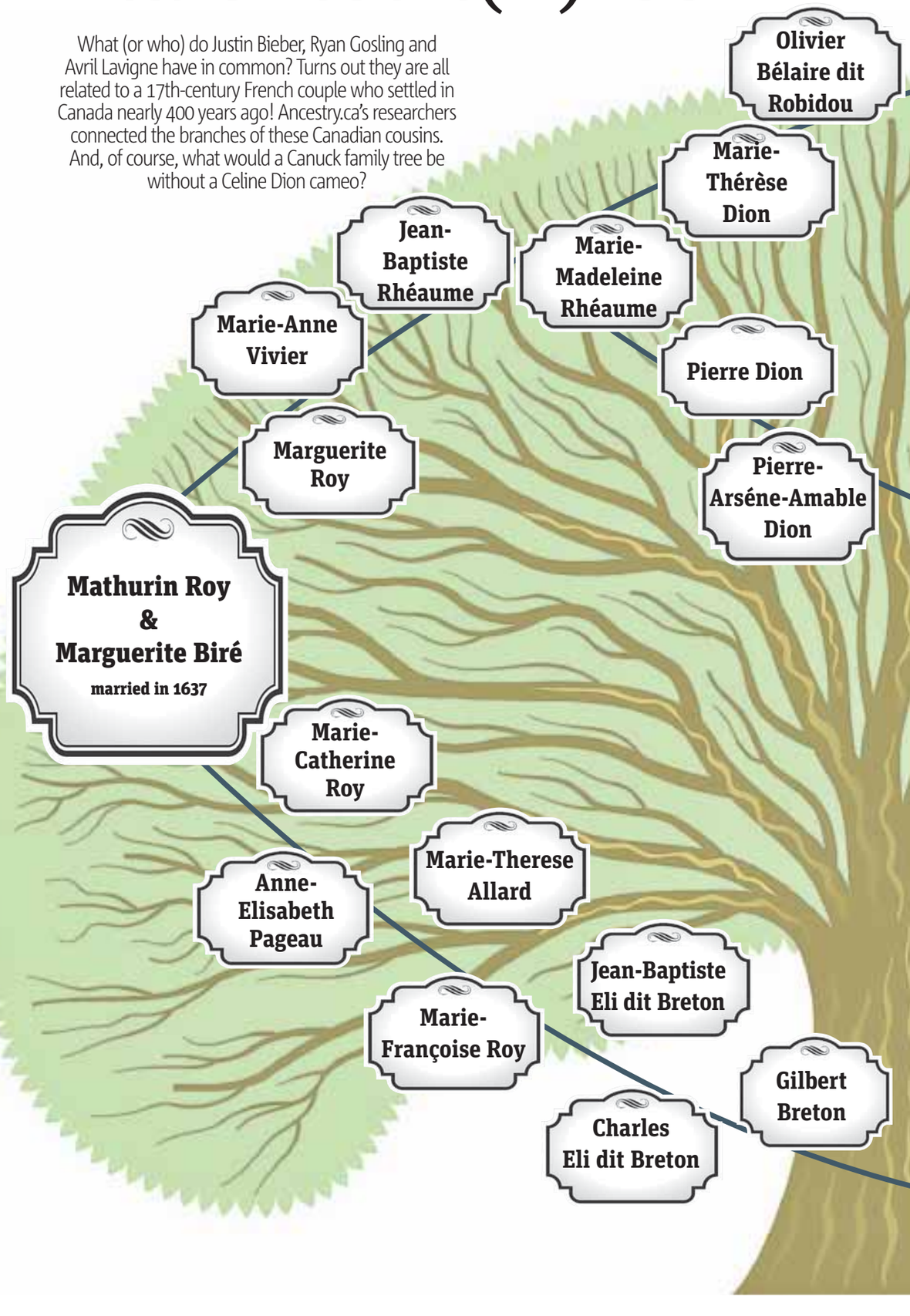
canadaslondon.com

Oh, Canada

Being related to Rachel McAdams, Ryan Reynolds or Seth Rogan? Totally cool. Pamela Anderson? Not so much.

A talented t(h)ree

What (or who) do Justin Bieber, Ryan Gosling and Avril Lavigne have in common? Turns out they are all related to a 17th-century French couple who settled in Canada nearly 400 years ago! Ancestry.ca's researchers connected the branches of these Canadian cousins. And, of course, what would a Canuck family tree be without a Celine Dion cameo?



The Canadian connection

NIKKI PAYNE
nikkipayne.com

Researchers at Ancestry.ca have discovered that Canadian prince and gangster-in-training Justin Bieber is related to Ryan Gosling, Celine Dion and Avril Lavigne.

Bieber and Dion are 10th cousins. Gosling is Bieber's 11th cousin once removed (what does "removed" even mean? I have a couple family members I wouldn't mind having "removed"). Bieber and Lavigne are 12th cousins.

Let's put this in perspective. Considering its size, Canada is sparsely populated. And I'm going to take a guess that a large portion of that population can be found squished into southern Ontario and Alberta. We're probably all 12th cousins. Heck, you might have a better chance of a Canadian celebrity cousin than rolling up a winning rim on a coffee cup.

So who's your celebrity kinfolk? Don't you want to know? Maybe you can't put down your iPhone because Alexander Graham Bell is your eighth great grand something? Or you love burnt toast because Dr. Wilder Penfield's blood flows through your veins. Clearly, I have watched way too many Canadian Heritage commercials.

When you grow up in a trailer park like I did, you tend to stay away from researching your family tree for fear that the stereotypes might be true and you're missing a few important branches. But now I'm dying to find out.

What rich and famous cousins could I be mooching off like only family can?

I could spend my days lounging in cousin Shania's infinity pool. Then crash at cousin Keanu's guesthouse at night. Maybe cousin Seth Rogen could come over and we'll work on a movie script! And when my meddling 13th cousin Rachel McAdams starts asking when I'm going to get a "real" job, I'll storm off in a huff into the loving arms of my kissing cousin Ryan Reynolds. I'll cry into his hard-bulging chest and he'll comfort me with soothing whispers in my ear, while my cousin-in-law Blake Lively seethes with jealousy.

Who am I kidding? Knowing my luck, I'll be related to Pamela Anderson and have to lend her money to help pay her taxes.

FOR MORE FUN MUSINGS FROM NIKKI PAYNE, VISIT NIKKIPAYNE.COM

Olivier "Levi" Bélaire

Mary Ann Bélaire

Julien Olivier Bélaire

Mary Yvette Brown

Thomas Ray Gosling

Marie-Flavie Dion

Josephine Séguin

Osias Joseph Lavigne

Jean Claude Joseph Lavigne

Marie-Victoire Tremblay

Maurice Yves Lavigne

Patricia Mallette (mother)

Joseph-François-Amédée Breton

Estelle Germain

Diane M Henry

Marie-Alphonsine-Germaine Breton

The sexy cousin

Ryan Gosling

An 11th cousin once removed from Justin is none other then heart throb Ryan Gosling. The Oscar nominee and the Juno winner are related through Mahurin Roy and Marguerite Biré, who immigrated from France to Quebec in the mid-1600s.

The wild cousin

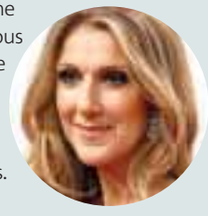
Avril Lavigne

Both Canadian singers, who started their road to stardom when they were teens, share a common family ancestor that goes back 400 years to some of Quebec's earliest settlers. According to Ancestry.ca researchers, Lavigne and the Biebs are 12th cousins.

Family sing-a-long anyone?

Celine Dion

If JB needs some family mentorship, he need look no further than the illustrious Celine Marie Claudette Dion. They are 10th cousins three times removed through Jacques Vezina and Marie Boisdon, who both immigrated to Quebec from France in the mid-1600s.



SOURCE: ANCESTRY.CA; ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Twitter

Metro asked you to share interesting branches you have in your family tree. Here's what you tweeted:

@thepolishviking

#metrofamous A Danish ancestor of mine in the 12th century claimed he was a wizard on a census form...

@thelordjames

My ancestors were baptized by (and I believe related to) Menno Simons. The founder of the Mennonites #metrofamous

@BenBrown21

#metrofamous my great uncle is Sir Cedric Hardwicke #10comandments

@ILike42

Henry Ford (the car guy) great-grandfather's first cousin. #metrofamous

@SusanLougheed

my Gt Grandfather, Goldie Prodger played for the St Pats & scored the winning goal the 1st yr the Habs won the Stanley Cup

@GiovannaNicolai

Victtorio De Sica grandfather #metrofamous

@_unicorntears_

My partner's cousin is Noah Reid, star of 'Score: A Hockey Musical' and original voice of Franklin the Turtle

Tomorrow

You think this tree goes way back? How about 100,000 years back? Tomorrow we look at how microscopic mtDNA can tell you even more about how you got here.

- **Online.** Read this feature online in full throughout the week at metronews.ca/whoareyou

‘Tablet for women’ called sexist

Pink, perky, pandering. Pre-loaded apps cover yoga, perfume, cooking and grocery shopping

LUKE SIMCOE
luke.simcoe@metronews.ca

The world’s “first tablet for women,” complete with a pink background and weight-loss apps, is being condemned as sexist.

Eurostar Group, the Middle East-based creator of the device, says the ePad Femme is designed for a woman’s “diverse lifestyle.” Based on the pre-loaded selection of apps, that lifestyle includes shopping for groceries, cooking and doing yoga.

Speaking with the Jerusalem Post, Eurostar spokesperson Mani Nair said the Android-powered device “makes a perfect gadget for a woman who might find difficulties in terms of downloading these applications.” Nair insisted nothing about the tablet was sexist, and compared it to similar products geared towards gamers. However, others disagree.

“There have always been special books for women concerning sex, how to please your husband, and what to cook for him,” Eman Al Nafjan, a Saudi feminist blogger told the Post. “This is just using technology for the same thing.”

In Saudi Arabia, women are often highly educated, but not allowed to drive or travel without a male escort. As a result, Al Nafjan says they spend a lot of time online and are fully capable of downloading their own apps.

Eurostar has sold about 7,000 units of the tablet since its October launch.

FACEBOOK/EUROSTAR GROUP

The ePad Femme is being marketed as the “first tablet for women.”

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Cyber crime. Going away? Don’t bank on the Wi-Fi

Travellers should be wary of cyber threats on vacation as they access free wireless networks with their smartphones, tablets or laptops, says software security company Symantec Corp.

Canadians travelling for March break and into the summer season shouldn’t be doing things like pulling up their bank accounts on Wi-Fi networks, said Lynn Hargrove. director of consumer solutions for Symantec Canada.

“What people don’t realize is that there’s no security on those Wi-Fi networks for the most part,” she said. “It’s a great way to keep in touch while you’re on vacation, but there are some inherent risks that come with it that people just aren’t thinking about.”

Symantec has found that two in 10 Canadians pull up their bank accounts on free Wi-Fi networks in Canada.

According to the firm’s 2012 Norton Cybercrime report, travellers are often victimized through their mobile devices while abroad, often by text messages. THE CANADIAN PRESS

A woman checks her cellphone at the beach in this file photo. Travellers should be more cautious about using free wireless networks while on vacation, a software security firm says.
ANDREW WARDLOW/THE NEWS HERALD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

New agreement

Ottawa gives Air Canada time to fix pension shortfall

A move by Ottawa to help Air Canada deal with a $4.2-billion deficit in its pension plan gives the airline some breathing room as it works to launch a new discount service. But the rules imposed on Air Canada in exchange may turn off other firms looking for the same help with their pension plans, which have been hurt by volatile stock markets and super low interest rates. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Proposed rules

EU measures aim to help stranded airline passengers

The EU is considering beefed-up measures to help stranded airline passengers get compensation and find quicker ways to get home. EU Transport Commissioner Siim Kallas said Wednesday that a new package of proposed rules means that if carriers cannot reroute passengers themselves within 12 hours they must find another airline or other transportation.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 97.34¢ (-0.12¢)

TSX 12,744.11 (-134.47)

OIL $92.52 US (-2¢)

GOLD $1,588.40 US (-$3.30)

Natural gas: $3.68 US (+4¢)
Dow Jones: 14,455.28 (+5.22)

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(SEE CENTRE SPREAD FOR DETAILS)

CURLY FRIES STRAIGHTEN THINGS OUT

HE SAYS

John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

After a non-stop string of feel-good stories and glowing press, Facebook — the little company that could — has finally been hit with some criticism.

The heretofore infallible website stumbled into the media spotlight for the first time this week when it was revealed that its users might have reason for some — wait for it — privacy concerns. It turns out that hitting "like" on certain Facebook groups or events can reveal more about you to advertisers than might be apparent.

Strike one, am I right?

A University of Cambridge study (like it on Facebook!) showed that running somebody's Facebook likes through a computer program could give you a decent indicator of that user's gender, race, religion and sexual orientation, not to mention their favourite colour, tooth health, Super Mario high score, social security number and how good they are in bed (within five per cent).

You might be tempted to call it a modern-day horoscope, but it's just the opposite, because it works.

For instance, it was shown that you could predict a high IQ in a user if they liked thunderstorms, The Colbert Report, science and curly fries. Facebook users who liked the group Eating Curly Fries While Watching Thunderstorm Science on The Colbert Report were mostly employees at the CERN particle accelerator in Geneva.

(It should be noted, though, that the spuds-smarts relationship might just be a coincidence, highlighting the classic logical fallacy of mistaking curly fries for causation.)

The researchers said that most of the computer's predictions were made through indirect connections — it wasn't guessing people were homosexual and Muslim because they liked Homosexuality is Halal (real group!). Instead it was, for instance, successfully predicting homosexuality from choices such as liking the TV show Glee.

I'd argue the bigger privacy concern for somebody who "likes" Glee is the fact it reveals you like Glee, but what do I know?

Other than the twist of the curly fries (ha!) this all seems straightforward to me. Many media outlets played up the report as if it was a shocker, but if you haven't figured out by now that Facebook is going to peruse, parse and package your information any way that it sees fit, then there's a Brooklyn Bridge auction on eBay we should discuss.

I'm no fan of Facebook. It's clear from their many previous transgressions that Facebook (like Google) thinks privacy is passé, maybe even dishonest. The site's new graph search that allows you to search for, say, "friends of friends who live in California and like Katy Perry and Nine Inch Nails" (23 results!) is so fascinating/icky that it feels like a new type of pornography.

But it shouldn't be a surprise anymore.

People will always have the right to raise privacy concerns, and the right to disconnect from Facebook, but if you're surprised by their disregard for your privacy after almost a decade then there's only one solution: Eat more curly fries. All will become clear in time.

ZOOM

Torrential photography

TOMÁS BOGÓNEZ/SOLENT

Tornado is illusion under acidic water

It looks like a giant tornado is causing mayhem in the sky, but this image is simply the reflection of a river running through a mine.

To create this stunning moment, photographer Tomás Bogónez has rotated the picture to appear like a huge fiery cyclone. The image was taken in Río Tinto river in Huelva, southwest Spain. **METRO**

Upside-down view

"The texture of the river was mind-blowing, the bright colours and the reflection of the river were amazing to see."
Tomás Bogónez

Colours are metals and minerals

The area around Río Tinto has been mined for more than 5,000 years. After centuries of exploiting the site, the waterway has become very dense, acidic and low in oxygen.

NASA scientists have even studied the ecosystem because of its similarities to Mars. The river's vibrant hues of red, ochre and violet are caused by the dissolved metals and minerals. **METRO**

Clickbait

ANDREW FIFIELD
metronews.ca

Twitter's perpetual parade of parody accounts never fails to keep us mildly amused. Check out this trio of lowlights from yesterday's conclave to see if they stuck the landing after the new Pope was announced.

@ConclaveManCave

Formerly used as the account of a hostile Ryan Gosling before becoming an all-caps f-bomb bot, a name change and a flame-broiled popemobile provide a new home for tedious bro jokes.

@PopeSeagull

The superstar bird started with promise, appointing himself pontiff to set the stage for decrees on how a bird would run things at the Vatican. Sadly, it was followed by food jokes.

@Vatican_Seagull

Hashtag-bombing location updates filled the gaps between thoughts on NFL free agency and pleas to celebrities for TV drama guest roles.

Letters

Fair trade Easter

Consumers often contribute to the better well-being of other people in the world. This was true with fair trade coffee and is becoming more and more true with other fair trade goods, such as chocolate.

The purchase of fair trade certified products has important consequences.

It allows many producers to receive reasonable prices for their products and numerous workers and producers to climb out of poverty. It also has positive impacts on the environment.

About 200,000 slave children work on farms and cocoa plantations, some against their will, in the Ivory Coast, which is the world's leading producer, supplying 35 per cent of its cocoa. The working conditions can be extremely dangerous, and living conditions can be very poor.

We should all work towards a world where solidarity is at the heart of economic development. A fair trade Easter would be an immense step in this direction.

Bruno Marquis, Gatineau, Que.

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Send us your comments: londonletters@metronews.ca

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Artist proves that one person's junk can be a boarder's treasure

Rolls Through.
Steve deBruyn creates his exhibits with whatever is on hand

BACKSTAGE PASS
Mila Petkovic
london@metronews.ca

Woodworker Steve deBruyn's skateboard-inspired art rolls through Forest City Gallery. COURTESY OF FOREST CITY GALLERY

There's a multi-coloured skate park inside Forest City Gallery.

Well, sort of. London artist Steve deBruyn's art exhibition Rolls Through showcases large-scale installations, handcrafted from wood and inspired by the shapes and structures of the skateboard ramp.

The artist also enjoys the traditional skater ethos of building obstacles for free from whatever is available.

"My own beginning in carpentry was due to wanting to build things to skate on as a teenager," said the 33-year-old deBruyn, who still skateboards around for transportation.

He found and recycled plywood and Masonite to make his art. He enjoys the traces of history these objects carry with them and how they can be repurposed to create new works.

"I collect scrap wood almost to the point of hoarding," said deBruyn. "If I'm driving and I see a nice piece of plywood on the side of the road, like an old restaurant sign, I'll stop and throw it in my car."

When deBruyn had a show in Fort Simpson, N.W.T. a few years ago, he was unable to find the supplies he needed in the small town and the available materials were very expensive.

"A roll of painters tape was $7! I took almost daily trips to the local dump to look for materials," said deBruyn, who is working toward holding a show in every province and territory of Canada.

For his show last summer in Matane, a town on the Gaspé Peninsula in Quebec, deBruyn collected materials from a local landfill that sponsored him.

Even the artist's colour palate is derived from discarded materials. Most of the pastel colours used to paint the installations come from household paint that people have returned to stores after trying them.

His tools of choice are a drill/driver, jigsaw, nail gun/air compressor and mitre saw. He builds his temporal installations right on site and has never exhibited the same show twice.

For the installation at FCG, deBruyn laboured for more than 60 hours in the gallery, plus about 40 hours at home prepping materials like the 5,000 little tiles for the wall installation.

"Every show is different and I usually have just a small idea in my head of where I want to go," said deBruyn, who enjoys the process of figuring out how to make new shapes or try different construction techniques using the space, materials and tools available to him.

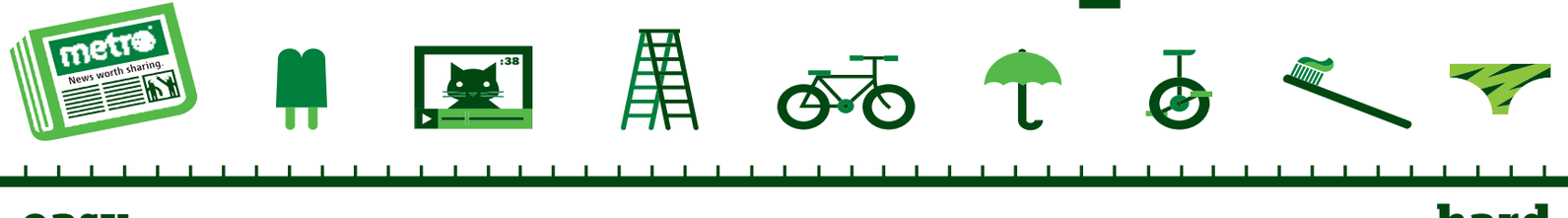
And the artist's woodworking skills extend beyond the gallery. He built his daughter a Halloween float for the Wortley Village parade and is currently building a trailer.

He is giving an artist talk at the Forest City Gallery (258 Richmond St.) on March 23 at 1 p.m. and the exhibition, now open, runs until April 5.

Around town

- **Music.** Don't miss five bands for $5 at the APK on Friday. Tenderness, Man Made Hill, You'll Never Get To Heaven, New Zebra Kid and Young Truck will take the stage, starting at 10 p.m.
- **And more music.** Singer/songwriter Craig Cardiff builds landscapes of sound using live digital loops. He is playing at the London Music Club on Saturday at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are $15 in advance and $20 at the door.

Sharability



What happens in Vegas stays with you

The Incredible Burt Wonderstone. Jim Carrey talks about jerk magicians and the difficulties of shooting a film in Las Vegas

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

For Jim Carrey, filming and promoting The Incredible Burt Wonderstone has meant spending a lot of time in Las Vegas, a truly unique city that apparently has quite the effect on the comic actor.

"There's everything here. You can't pinpoint it, this big Vegas glitzy thing. When you look out on the strip, it's blinding the energy that they have," Carrey says.

"I'm not a gambler, not the Sin City part of the deal. I like the shows."

One thing he doesn't like, though, is all the filtered air.

"I like being on the street in Vegas. I have trouble in the room," he says. "Nobody puts a window in that you can crack. I just get dryer and dryer. By day three, I'm beef jerky. I have crazy dreams here. Last night I had a dream that I had been shrunk down to the size of an insect and I was swallowed by a hungry giant and I went through his esophagus and into his stomach, and I was burned by his juices. By the time I got to the lower intestines, I wasn't anything that I could recognize. ... I woke up at ... the cashier at Bally's begging for another line of credit. I don't know if it was the Ambien or I have a gambling problem. If someone could give me $500, I swear I'm good for it. Seriously."

In The Incredible Burt Wonderstone, Carrey co-stars as Steve Gray, a Criss Angel-inspired edgy illusionist at odds with Steve Carell's more traditional titular magic man. While Gray and Wonderstone battle it out for a high-profile gig on the Strip, Carrey remembers his own days playing Vegas.

"I used to perform here with Rodney Dangerfield years ago at Caesar's. I used to open for him," he remembers. "I brought my dad down to the see the show. To see your name up on that big sign is such a thrill. 'Wow, I'm really here.' Then I had a shift and got away from impressions and I started dressing weird with spiky hair and started imitating cockroaches avoiding vacuum cleaners. I totally lost the audience, which of course I planned to do from time to time. Rodney Dangerfield used to stand backstage and howl with laughter at my failure. I'd come off stage and he'd say, 'Man, they're looking at you like your from another planet.'"

As for magicians, Carrey admits he hasn't always been the biggest fan.

"There's not a lot of differences between magicians and actors, although I think magicians are a lot more arrogant," Carrey says.

"That's what bothered me about magicians growing up. I was always fascinated by it growing up, they're kind of like, 'Abracadabra, you're an idiot!' They don't let you in on the joke. Comedians are in on the joke — unless you're Andy Kaufman."

Steve Carrell, left, Steve Buscemi and Jim Carrey star in The Incredible Burt Wonderstone. BEN GLASS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Crazy Carrey

Setting the record straight

Jim Carrey is known for some bizarre behaviour — as his very active Twitter feed can attest. But over the course of his career, that reputation may have gotten a bit out of hand, he admits.

"The craziest rumour that I've heard about myself is that I have an iguana and that... it's written that I have to have a chef for my iguana," Carrey says. Total nonsense?

Well, not completely.

"I had an iguana, but I didn't have a chef for him."

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A signed and sealed deliverance

Dropkick Murphys. Punk legends returning to their musical roots after a tepid last album

LINDA LABAN
Metro World News

How do you follow an intricate concept album? If you're the Dropkick Murphys you go back to basics. And the result, with the January-released Signed and Sealed in Blood, is a rip-roaring Boston celtic punk classic.

"The previous record being a concept album was very much mental gymnastics," says Dropkick's co-founder Ken Casey. "It was a great songwriting exercise. But this time we felt like kids in a candy store ready to write a good, old-fashioned punk-rock record. It never would have happened or sounded like this if the other one hadn't been like it was — or come as quick."

Musical group Dropkick Murphys perform onstage during the First-Ever Call of Duty XP at the Stages at Playa Vista in Los Angeles. HANDOUT

Right from the foot-stomping opener The Boys Are Back, the seven-man band wear their pent-up punk-rock energy on their tattooed sleeves.

"It's difficult writing a song, but when you're trying to tie all the songs into a larger story, it steers you into directions you might not want to go in," adds Casey. "This one is a simpler record."

The folky Rose Tattoo finds the Dropkicks collaborating with Mumford and Sons banjo player Winston Marshall, where the pace gears down.

"Even though this album doesn't have a true ballad, we slow it down," he says, "but without pulling the rug from under the record."

Fan favourite

A return for a Barroom Hero

Among the hundreds of songs the Dropkick Murphys have under their belt, Barroom Hero is a clear fan favourite.

"We'd taken it out of the set," Ken Casey says.

"Then people stared saying, 'What the hell are you doing not playing that song?'"

The song has a long history with the group and a bit of sentimentality to it too.

"It was the first song we ever wrote, even before we started the band. It's one of those songs that's always been a staple. You play a song every time for 17 years, they're either going to love it or hate it."

LINDA LABAN/METRO WORLD NEWS

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Lime Ridge Mall
Lynden Park Mall
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Yorkdale Mall

Bringing back the Beatles

Rare photos. Photographer Henry Grossman, who followed the Britpop crew for four years, shares stacks of unseen photos

SHAUN BRADY
Metro World News

It was just another job for young photographer Henry Grossman when Time magazine hired him to shoot behind-the-scenes images of the Beatles' first appearance on The Ed Sullivan Show.

But that telecast ended up being an iconic moment in rock history and that one-off assignment ended up spanning four years as Grossman followed the Fab Four to the Bahamas and Austria during the production of Help!

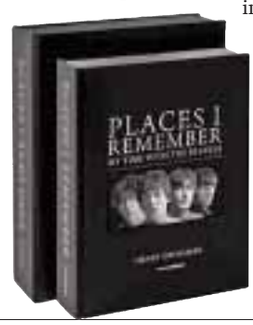
Photos from those years can be found in Places I Remember: My Time With the Beatles, which showcases more than 1,000 of Grossman's photographs from his time with the iconic band, most of them never seen before.

"I wasn't a fan of the music particularly," Grossman says.

"I always listened to classical music, opera, concert music, that kind of stuff. But I became a fan of them. They were some of the best people I've ever known."

After shooting more than 6,500 snapshots of the band between 1964 and 1968, Grossman filed his unpublished photos away and never gave much thought to them again.

"I was busy," he says. "I was going to the White House, photographing Broadway shows, political personalities, poets, writers. I put the photos away in an archive. I thought I had exhausted everything that could be done with them."



Publishers Brian Kehew and Kevin Ryan thought differently. After discovering Grossman's horde, they worked with him to assemble Places I Remember: My Time With the Beatles, a collection of more than 1,000 of Grossman's photographs, almost all of them never seen before.

Besides his photography career, Grossman worked as an actor and Wagnerian tenor, performing on Broadway and at the Metropolitan Opera.

He studied with Lee Strasberg alongside classmates like Dustin Hoffman and Elliott Gould. But he still looks back fondly on his years with the Beatles.

"Looking at the photos in this book is like revisiting old friends," he says. "I thought they were charming, witty, intelligent. As I got to know them, I realized how unique each one of them was individually, and also how unique they were as a group. They were terrific fun."

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Post-surgery, Lady Gaga got some shiny new wheels. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Lady Gaga: the woman with the golden wheelchair

Lady Gaga is recovering from hip surgery in style.

The singer reportedly tapped designer Ken Borochov for a custom 24-karat gold wheelchair, according to E! News. "I certainly wasn't expecting that phone call and have never done a wheelchair, but am always up for a challenge and was thrilled to create what I affectionately dubbed the Chariot, a chair for a queen," Borochov says in a statement.

Hawaiians: watch out for nude, singing stars in a backyard near you.

Dream on, paparazzi: new Hawaiian law named after Aerosmith singer

Hawaii's state senate has passed the Steven Tyler Act, which gives celebrities the right to sue paparazzi over unwanted photos and videos taken of them, and the man for whom the act is named couldn't be more thrilled. "(In Hawaii,) they are allowed in with their lenses and they get the most intimate of shots. Not on my watch," he tells Billboard. "Now at least Joe (Perry) and I can go to Maui and walk around naked in the back lawn and write some crazy songs."

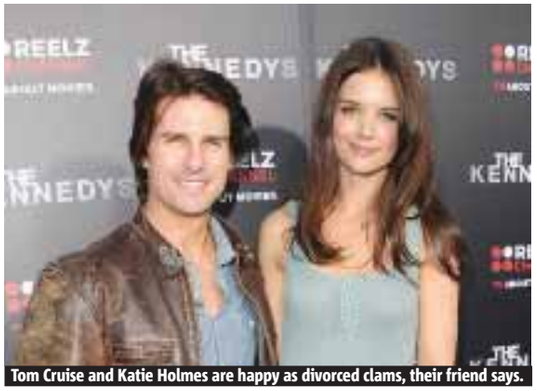
The Word

Twitter joke makes Beliebers go Wilde

Olivia Wilde has learned the hard way not to criticize Justin Bieber, as her post to Twitter earlier this month imploring the pop star to "put your f–ing shirt on" earned her more than 17,000 angry responses from Bieber fans.

"It's pretty much the funniest thing that's ever happened to me because my Twitter feed is now filled with the most hilarious abuse," she says during a visit to the Tonight Show with Jay Leno. "One of them was like, 'Are you a lesbian or are you too old?' That's great, because it's a question I never asked myself before."

Wilde is making light of the threats to her safety, telling CNN, "I'm going to get attacked with acid. Someone's going to throw acid in my face. If that happens, there are 35 million Beliebers that did it, so find them."



Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes are happy as divorced clams, their friend says.

Tom and Kate are doing just swell after split, says mutual friend

Apparently getting divorced was the best thing to happen to Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes, at least according to director Adam Shankman, who is friends with both.

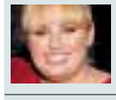
Shankman tells Us Weekly that since the couple's high-profile split last summer, the two are doing just swell.

"They are incredibly happy," Shankman says. "I've just been emailing with him. He's coming back. He's shooting (All You Need Is Kill) in London and seems as happy as a clam. I know he sees his daughter." As for Holmes? "Katie seems really happy," Shankman adds.

Twitter

@TheSlyStallone
No S. Seagal, sorry ,but maybe we get lucky with J. Chan! And some young bloods!!! (on the cast of the Expendables 3)

@kirstiealley
Oh who cares if we swear ?? They are just words ... just letters arranged in a fashion to sound tough or cool or angry.



@rebelwilson
I'm not too famous to eat crumbs off my chest x

@CharlieSheen
hashtag chefkla hashtag winning hashtag grinning hashtag keptyourjob hashtag bravo hashtag breakfast

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SHOPPERS DRUG MART

Diet Coke's 30th anniversary bottles and cans are getting some fashionable fizz with the help of designer Marc Jacobs. The toy-soldier-sized New Yorker talks sex, Kate Moss and refusing to compete with Tom Ford.

RICHARD PECKETT
Metro World News

How to open up a can of kickass

Marc his words.

The fashion world's favourite bad boy takes a moment from his mid-life crisis to chat with Metro

Next month you'll turn 50. What do you have planned for your mid-life crisis?
My mid-life crisis has been going on for 20 years. I don't see it as a crisis at all. I think it's quite an adventure — not a crisis for me. I'm not going to buy a Corvette or anything like that — I guess that's someone else's mid-life crisis.

You've said you don't have any big party plans but you seem to enjoy wearing some pretty outrageous outfits like that pink polo shirt dress. Do you enjoy getting dressed up?
I do enjoy it. I love attention. I'm very honest about it. There were years where I just didn't want to do press and I didn't really care about my appearance and I sort of shied away from things like that. But in order to enjoy them, I have to be me and sometimes that means wearing a pink dress, a lace dress or a kilt. Also, I feel like I need to relate to that joy and that ritual of going shopping and finding something to wear and then wearing it. I think being connected to that makes me a better designer. It's sort of like practising what you preach. I wouldn't really be doing my job if I didn't do that.

What's your relationship like with Kate Moss?
Kate Moss? She just texted me. We've been on holiday together. We were in Ibiza a few years ago with her daughter (Lila Grace), (photographers) Mert (Alas) and Marcus (Piggott) and some friends of mine. I've spent a great deal of time with Kate over the years. We genuinely like each other — we just click.

She regularly closes your show. Do you ask her or vice-versa?
It works both ways. She's expressed interest and of course, I've expressed interest in wanting her in a show. Over the past few years, it's kind of like the Vuitton show is the only show she'll do. It's kind of just become this thing.

Jacobs' Diet Coke designs were inspired by three decades of female empowerment: the '80s, '90s and '00s. PROVIDED

The Marc By Marc Jacobs Fall 2013 fashion show.
GETTY IMAGES

Your last Louis Vuitton shows had sexual undertones. How does sex influence your work?

Just Jacobs

"I have to be me and sometimes that means wearing a pink dress, a lace dress or a kilt."
Marc Jacobs

Sex is a big part of my life. It's a very big part of most people's lives whether they want to admit it or not. I don't know, sometimes when collections feel more personal there's more of an undercurrent of things that are of an emotional nature. When I dream, there's this darkness, this melancholy side, there's this sexual tension and then there's this kind of identity thing that goes on. An element of role-play and honesty. In the collections that I feel most proud, there are personal feelings and emotions that make it human.

You're in great shape and so is Tom Ford. Who's the bigger stud and why?
I don't know. I don't compete with Tom Ford. Tom's a friend of mine and I think Tom's terrific. He's a great looking guy and all of that but I certainly don't set out to compete with Tom (laughs). I wouldn't compare anything of mine to anything of his.

How does the inspiration and working process for you differ between your Marc Jacobs and Louis Vuitton collections?
The New York collection is very personal to my life growing up in New York. My collection in Paris is very much about my life in Paris, which is a bit of more of a fantasy life, that of being a French designer and working with the great ateliers of Paris — it feels a little bit like I'm looking in on a different world.

Are there too many designer collaborations?
No, no. It's always a two-way street. If nobody had any interest in designers doing cans and bottles for Coca-Cola, then Diet Coke wouldn't ask designers to do it. It's about supply and demand.

Do you think that fashion houses are creating too many collections these days?
It is too much but I don't actively participate in all of it to the same degree. I know when I'm most needed and that's when I rise to the occasion and I don't think any one person does do that much. They might say that they do but they don't.

Cigarettes, coffee and Diet Coke, would you say that you've got an addictive personality?
Well, let's not put cigarettes in the same category as Diet Coke. Hmm, cigarette smoking is my bad habit, I'd say. It's my biggest vice and bad habit — I don't recommend it.

Decades of Diet Coke

Eighties girl power

The nineties go glam

The sporty noughties

ELLE 3

A balance of sweet and tart that's suited for any time

Lemon Poppy Seed Loaf

This recipe serves 16. MARK SHAPIRO, FROM ROSE REISMAN'S COMPLETE LIGHT KITCHEN (WHITECAP BOOKS)

ROSE REISMAN
for more, visit
rosereisman.com

This is a delicious and versatile loaf that can be served at breakfast or brunch or for dessert at dinner. If you prefer muffins, just spray 12 muffin cups with vegetable oil, pour in the batter and bake in a 375 F oven for 15 to 20 minutes.

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F. Spray a 9-x5- inch loaf pan with cooking oil.

2. For cake, combine the granulated sugar, oil, egg, lemon rind and 3 tbsp juice in a large bowl or a food processor. Mix well. Add milk, mixing thoroughly.

3. Combine the flour, poppy seeds, baking powder and baking soda. Add to the wet mixture alternately with the yogurt, mixing just until incorporated. Do not overmix.

4. Pour into the prepared pan and bake for 35 to 40 minutes, or until a tester inserted in the centre of the cake comes out dry. Set the pan on a rack to cool for 10 minutes. The centre of the cake may sink slightly when it cools.

5. For a glaze, combine the icing sugar and 2 tbsp lemon juice. Prick holes in the top of the loaf with a fork or wooden skewer and pour the glaze over the loaf.

ROSE REISMAN'S COMPLETE LIGHT KITCHEN (WHITECAP BOOKS) BY ROSE REISMAN

Ingredients

- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1/3 cup vegetable oil
- 1 egg
- 2 tsp grated lemon rind
- 3 tbsp freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 1/3 cup 2% milk
- 1 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tbsp poppy seeds
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 cup 2% yogurt or light sour cream
- 1/4 cup icing sugar
- 2 tbsp freshly squeezed lemon juice

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Snacks with a rich taste can still be healthy thanks to natural sweeteners. Espresso Macaroons, Chai Brownies and Apricot Toffee are among 48 recipes offering sugar-free and gluten-free temptations.

Popping something good

1. Heat empty cast-iron Dutch oven over low heat 2 minutes.

2. Add enough olive oil to the pot to thinly coat the entire bottom. Add a single layer of popcorn kernels. You want them to be touching but not more than one layer thick. Increase the heat to medium and place the lid on the pot. Wait until popping begins, then turn the heat down slightly.

3. Shake the pot every 30 seconds or so. Start shaking a bit more when the popping starts to subside. When the kernels stop popping in unison and you only hear one pop every couple of seconds, it is done.

4. Pour the popcorn into a large bowl. Season generously with the toppings listed below, or another one of your favourites. Toss the popcorn in the bowl and sprinkle with additional seasoning several times to make sure you have an even coating. Serve immediately or let cool.

Wet Popcorn Toppings
Be certain to spread the popcorn flat on a baking sheet before adding wet toppings, then let it set before serving.
- Melted chocolate
- Melted chocolate and peanut butter
- Melted caramels and a pinch of salt

Dry Popcorn Toppings
- Maple sugar and crispy bits of smoked bacon
- Mini marshmallows, chocolate chips and peanuts
- Mini M&Ms, chopped roasted almonds and dried coconut
- Ragin' Cajun Spice mixture
- Lemon-pepper salt
- Italian spice blend and finely grated Parmesan cheese
- Truffle salt
- 1 cup finely grated Parmesan cheese
- Barbecue rub

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ ELIZABETH KARMEL, GRILLING AND SOUTHERN FOODS EXPERT AND AUTHOR OF SOAKED, SLATHERED AND SEASONED

Ingredients

- 2 to 3 tbsp olive oil (depending on the size of the pot)
- 1/3 to 1/2 cup popcorn kernels (depending on the size of the pot)
- Fine-grain sea salt or other seasoned toppings

Shelly's FAMOUS Made with SHELLY'S SECRET Recipe!
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Specially prepared by our Executive Chef and roasted daily
Served with...
Salad, Warm Corn Bread, and choice of Hand-cut Fries, Mashed Potatoes or Wild Rice Pilaf
Join us!
Shelly's TAP AND GRILL
The Lamplighter Inn
591 Wellington Road | 519.681.7151
www.shellystapandgrill.com

Snack. Tropical Granola

Enjoy this granola anywhere, even on the run.

1. In saucepan over high heat, bring juice beverage to boil and boil until reduced by half. Let cool slightly. Stir in honey, maple syrup and oil. Set aside.

2. In large bowl, stir together oats, coconut, banana, pineapple, almonds, macadamia nuts, apricot, mango, pumpkin seeds, ginger and salt. Pour juice mixture over top; toss to coat.

3. Spread evenly on 2 greased or parchment paper-lined rimmed baking sheets. Bake in 325 F (160 C) oven for 30 minutes, rotating pans and stirring once, or until granola is golden.

NEWS CANADA/ MINUTEMAID.CA

Ingredients

- 1 cup Minute Maid Chilled Mango Juice Beverage
- 1/3 cup liquid honey
- 3 tbsp maple syrup
- 3 tbsp vegetable oil
- 4 cups large-flake rolled oats
- 11/2 cups unsweetened coconut flakes
- 1 1/2 cups dried banana chips
- 1 cup chopped dried pine apple
- 1 cup whole raw almonds
- 1/2 cup coarsely chopped macadamia nuts
- 1/2 cup chopped dried apricot
- 1/2 cup chopped dried mango
- 1/3 cup pumpkin seeds
- 1/2 tsp ground ginger
- 1/2 tsp salt

Products working hard every season

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

As winter slowly melts away and the thermometer steadily rises, we start dealing with that in between weather, where the temperature can be unpredictable. But now the boundaries between interior and exterior furniture and equipment are coming together in style and functionality. Here's a group of useful home decor products that not only live up to good style but also serve us well, whatever Mother Nature throws at us.

Black-out drapes

Keep cold drafts away during winter months and cut the bright summer sun with a drape that's right on trend. This light silk/satin drape with a block-out liner is affordable and stylish. Tip: In order to keep maximum light out, overlap the sides and top of your window by six inches to guarantee light doesn't creep in.

AZUKI Blackout Drape, from $30, bouclair.ca

Hot-cold fan

Add a little heat on those still-chilly nights and when summer arrives switch this all-in-one heater-fan over to a cool breeze. No visible heating elements or fan blades gives this a fresh, sleek style.

Nickel finish Dyson Hot + Cool fan heater, $450, dyson.ca

Entrance organizing

Whether inside or out, a place to organize is always welcome. A bench, storage and hanging combo not only looks good but also keeps you organized. Durable enough for outside yet streamlined enough for in the house.

The APPLARO bench is a perfect place to perch. $149, ikea.ca

Heated trivet

Go from cosy indoor entertaining to dining alfresco with a microwavable hot plate. Just a quick zap for two minutes keeps it hot for up to an hour.

Mastrad Microwavable Hot Plate, $50, sears.ca

Trendy pillows

Take the hot looks of inside to the great outdoors without worry — these indoor/outdoor pillows are water and fade resistant! Tip: Use indoor/outdoor fabric items for their durability in heavy-use spaces like kids play areas and recreation rooms.

Lattice Pillows, $30/set of two, homesense.ca

Grilling from inside to out

Use as an electric grill in your kitchen or on the patio. A 1,600-watt electric grilling element offers plenty of fast heat for grilling and cooking.

George Foreman Indoor/Outdoor Electric Barbecue Grill. $130, bedbathandbeyond.ca

Feature Home

40-124 NORTH CENTRE RD., LONDON, ON, $449,900
Prestigious executive condo nestled on a premium lot in quiet 'Woodland Trails' in the heart of North London. Spacious main floor master bedroom with luxury 5 piece ensuite. sleek glass paneled open staircase to an upper loft featuring a den, bedroom and 3 piece bath, oversized rear deck and more. This condo backs onto trees and nature trail.

Extensive additional use of premium windows, large inviting foyer, ceramic & hardwood floors. Stunning great room with soaring 2 storey cathedral ceiling.

Gourmet kitchen with granite clad counter tops and backsplash.

Call Warren Shantz, Broker at 519-471-8888, or Judy Robinson, Sales Representative at 519-438-2222

Sutton Group - Preferred Realty Inc., Brokerage
7045 Longwoods Road | London, ON

According to research done by a professor at the University of Guelph, real estate ad phrasing has a strong effect on the sale price and a house's time on the market. Here are some phrases that can improve the chances of a home's sale, and some a seller should never use.

BUZZ WORDS FOR YOUR HOME LISTING

THE BEST

Beautiful/gorgeous

According to the study, homes that were called "beautiful" sold, on average, 15 per cent faster. While most home buyers are thrilled to get a bargain, they still put a major emphasis on the condition of a home and its aesthetic appeal.

Move-in condition

This tells a home buyer that your home needs no repairs, changes or moderations; it is perfect and ready to be lived in as soon as you hand over the keys. "I have visited many homes that use this phrase in their listing and again and again I'm impressed with the condition of the home. This is the magic phrase for me, but also not an expression that should be used lightly," says Martin Rygiel, sales director at the ComFree Network, Canada's largest commission-free real estate organization

Turnkey

"Any time I see the word 'turnkey' the pictures that go with the listing tend to reveal a home that is in fantastic condition," he says. "Another word that also catches my eye is 'immaculate'; tell me a home is immaculate and mean it, and there's a good chance I will want to check it out." Again, keep in mind that if you use this word, your home must live up to it.

Curb appeal

When a home is listed with the words "curb appeal" many home buyers perk up with anticipation. Words like "landscaping" also did well in the survey because a home that is beautiful inside and outside appeals to the masses.

Gourmet kitchen

There is no doubt that the kitchen is one of the most important, if not the most important room in a home. So it is no surprise to learn that words like "granite" and "gourmet kitchen" translated into a higher sale price. If your kitchen isn't a gourmet one, do minimal upgrades and use another proven phrase with homeowners like "newly remodeled".

Be careful what you write on your home listing — it has a strong effect on the sale. NEWSCANADA.COM

THE WORST

Motivated

While you might expect a word like "motivated" to indicate that the homeowner is willing to negotiate on price, it seems this word has the opposite effect. It makes sense for the seller to focus more on the listing and less on describing themselves personally.

Must sell

Unfortunately, the use of "must sell" implies that the home seller is desperate and that there must be something wrong with the place. This, in turn, leaves the home for sale on the market for longer than it would otherwise be. This term could convey that there is something wrong with the home or that it was overvalued to begin with.

Good value

According to Rygiel: "We've seen customers try to list their homes using the phrase 'good value' and we always advise against it. To a potential buyer, this phrase translates to 'not much to look at but a bargain for the price'."

Starter home

When a potential home buyer sees the words "starter home" on a listing, they immediately imagine a tiny home made for 1.5 people. It indicates that the property is small and economical for first time home buyers. The pitfall of saying "starter home" would be that you are only appealing to a certain portion of buyers instead of the whole market. Add the square footage of the home in the listing rather than using those words which have a negative connotation.

Freshly painted

You've invested a couple hundred dollars to paint your home and prepare it for sale and you think it looks pretty darn good. If you put the promise of a house as 'freshly painted,' potential homebuyers might wonder if that's the only thing that has recently been revamped.

NEWSCANADA.COM

Get your kids ready for moving day

Big changes. Include children in the house hunting process and make it exciting

Get a move on. Help your kids get used to the idea of moving by involving them right from the beginning. NEWS CANADA

The home buying process can be overwhelming, especially for people with children.

"From mortgages to movers, there is a lot to consider when buying a home," says Ron Abraham, president of the Ontario Real Estate Association.

"Homebuyers with children need to think about what is in the area, like schools, daycares, libraries, parks, recreation, and if their location of choice is generally family-friendly. A local realtor is a great resource in the home buying process, as they are familiar with nearby amenities and can help find the right home in a neighbourhood that suits the needs of everyone in the family."

To help get children excited about a move, Abraham recommends that parents include kids in the home buying process by having them look at listings for homes and asking them to make a wish list of must-haves for the new home and neighbourhood.

"Moving can be tough on children, but parents can help make the process easier by planning for it in advance," says Abraham.

He recommends these additional tips to parents planning a home move:

- Visit local parks and recreation centres in your new area to give kids an opportunity to meet new friends.
- Stick to a normal routine as much as possible on days leading up to and following the move.
- Unpack the kids' rooms first.
- Talk to the kids about their feelings on the move and help them collect email addresses/phone numbers from friends in their old neighbourhood so they can stay in touch.
- Take lots of photos of your old house and neighbourhood and plan a goodbye party with all of your old friends.

NEWS CANADA

Title insurance for extra protection

Selling a home can be a roller-coaster ride of excitement and frustration, usually ending when an offer is accepted. Unfortunately, problems can arise with a home's title—such as outstanding work orders no one knew about or questionable property access rights. The selling homeowner may already have the solution to these problems—in the form of title insurance.

"Title insurance provides coverage against problems that could affect ownership or the marketability of the property," said Ray Leclair, vice president of public affairs at LAWPRO. "It's a one-time purchase, made through your real estate lawyer, that protects your legal ownership of the property for as long as you or your heirs own it."

"The key is to buy the title insurance with the assistance of a qualified real estate lawyer when you buy your home," says Leclair. "And to know what your policy can do for you."

Ontario real estate

Creating curb appeal

COSTA POULOPOULOS
Ontario Real Estate Association board

We've all heard you shouldn't judge a book by its cover, but when it comes to deciding what the neighbour's place is really like, we are all guilty of using the exterior and yard as a gauge on what the inside looks like. No one is more judgmental than a potential buyer, not even a nosy neighbour! In fact, buyers will often do a drive-by before deciding whether or not to bother scheduling a showing, so I always tell my clients to make sure the outside is picture perfect.

The first impression is so important to capturing the attention of home buyers and sending the message that the home has been well cared for, inside and out.

Homeowners can ensure that their home stands out by following these five simple steps:

Cut. Keep trees and bushes neatly trimmed. Trees, branches and shrubs can obscure your home's features and make it look ill-kept. Also, trees that rub against your home can cause damage to siding and impede the amount of direct sunlight you receive.

Clean. Remove leaves and sticks from gutters, wash windows, pressure-wash dirty siding and decks and kill mould and mildew on the house, sidewalks, roof and driveway. Make sure the lawn is mowed, leaves are raked and weeds are removed.

Paint. If you can budget it, a fresh paint job does wonders. If you can't afford to do the whole house, a fresh coat of paint will transform your front door and provide a more welcoming entryway into your home. In particular, a red door means "welcome" in many cultures, making it a good colour choice for front doors.

Upgrade. Change out-dated locks and handles on your front door, replace rusty fixtures and add lighting to the front porch and yard.

Plant. Planting flowers is one of the easiest, most cost-effective ways to make a big impact — and don't forget the backyard.

For more tips on enhancing curb appeal, talk to your Realtor.

YOUR GATEWAY TO STRATHROY!

Century 21 Red Ribbon Realty (2000) Ltd. Brokerage

$324,900

70 NORTH STREET, Strathroy, ON
Charm plus is the only way to describe this very spacious maintained 2 storey 4 bedroom home. Beautiful mature treed lot, great location on the edge of downtown, just a hop, skip and a jump away from new splash pad.
Contact Kim Banks Sales Rep. at 519-245-6700.

$349,900

26093 ARTHUR RD, Napier, ON
Amazing private location, less than 15 min to Strathroy, home is immaculate and shows like new! Nature lovers dream on 3.15 acres, mature trees surround this beautifully landscaped custom built 3 bedroom raised ranch.
Contact Kim Banks Sales Rep. at 519-245-6700.

$149,900

8466 TOWNSEND LN, Arkona, ON
Great value large family home on corner lot with courtyard patio and fenced play area. 2 car garage in quiet village setting.
Contact Brian Linker Sales Rep. at 519-245-6700.

$275,000

115 VICTORIA DR., Melbourne, ON
New Listing!Spacious 1800 sq ft open concept home with a 30x40 attached insulated and heated shop. ***Exclusive Listing***
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Weekend warriors: Now's the perfect time to get working on your house

Indoors. With a little guidance, you can get your home in shape by Monday morning

JULIA WEST
Metro World News in Philadelphia

Pull your spices out of the pantry and display them in glass jars. METRO

If you look around your house or apartment and start to list all the improvements you could make, you might just give up before you even start.

Home improvements can be overwhelming when you approach them all at once.

Now that the temperature has dropped, take a weekend here and there to tinker on various indoor projects and you'll be surprised how much you accomplish.

1. Install a dimmer switch

This takes very little money and just a basic understanding of wiring.

Or check out YouTube to watch the experts do it. You'll want to install a dimmer—and set the mood —in every room of your house.

2. Rethink storage

Break out of the drab cupboard and expose your dishes, spices, and canned soups.

Open-shelving can be done in almost any room in the house.

If you want to show off your extensive library just look into DIY shelving kits.

You and your living room just got a lot smarter.

3. Design a gallery wall

Pick up a bunch of picture frames in various sizes. You can go to the thrift store or the department store—it all depends on your budget.

Fill the frames with photos, clippings, scrap wallpaper, whatever you want. Place frames on the floor to figure out how you want to cluster them together.

Go big and take up a whole wall or create small groupings.

It's attention-grabbing and can be done regardless of how much space you have.

4. Give your backsplash some life

It's impressive what a few vibrant tiles can do to a kitchen.

Play around with pattern ideas and colour schemes, glue those suckers to the area behind your kitchen sink and under your cabinets, and you'll feel like you remodeled the whole kitchen.

5. Splurge if you can

This is for those that have the ability to drop some serious cash on their upgrades.

Think about what room you like best. Are you an aspiring culinary whiz in the kitchen or a studious worker in the den? Do you primp for what seems like hours in the bathroom?

Find your favourite spot and make it even better. Install that open range stovetop or television that pops up from behind a bookshelf. Go nuts.

61 Winona Rd., Kilworth, ON
You will be impressed by this great 5 level sidesplit on huge corner lot with fabulous heated pool surrounded by stamp concrete. functional floor plan for any family. Huge eat-in kitchen with island, pantry, skylight overlooking family room with gas fireplace.
Look through glass/sliding doors and enjoy summers in your private oasis, 2 decks from different levels, 2 pergolas,professionally landscaped gardens with in-ground sprinkler system and of course the gorgeous heated in-ground swimming pool.
The second floor has 3 good-sized bedroom including master with 4 piece ensuite (double sink & Shower)4th level family room with fireplace and custom dry bar. **$369,900**

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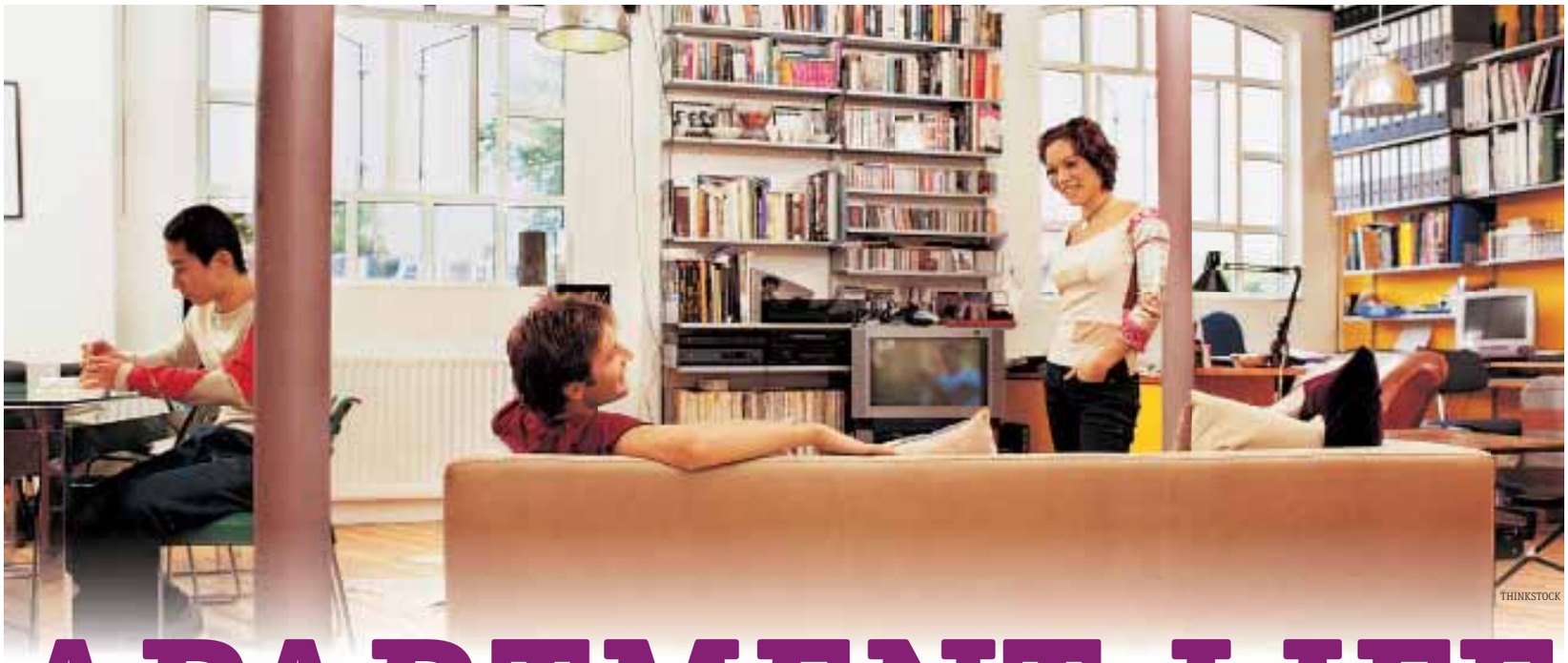

THINKSTOCK

APARTMENT LIFE

Know your rights as a tenant

As a tenant, it's important to know what rights you have and don't have regarding where you live. The Landlord and Tenant Board can help you since it administers the Residential Tenancies Act that sets out the responsibilities of both landlords and tenants.

In many cases, once landlords and tenants are aware of their rights and obligations they can resolve their own problems. However, if a landlord and tenant cannot come to an agreement on their own, then another responsibility of the board is to resolve the issue.

If there's a problem, landlords and tenants can file an application with the board. At the hearing, a member of the board will make a decision on the application based on the evidence presented. Or, if both the landlord and tenant agree, a mediator from the board can work with them to try to help them reach their own agreement.

The Act covers most residential rental units in Ontario including mobile homes, care homes and rooming and boarding houses. However, there are some situations where a rental unit may not be covered such as if the tenant must share a kitchen or bathroom with the owner, or family members of the owner, or the unit is used on a seasonal or temporary basis.

To learn more about your rights and responsibilities, you can view or print all or parts of the Residential Tenancies Act from Publications Ontario's legislation online link at www.e-laws.gov.on.ca. You can also order a copy of the Act for a fee from Publications Ontario and get copies of the forms and brochures free of charge at any Landlord and Tenant Board office or at a Service Ontario Centre.

For more information you call the Landlord and Tenant Board at 1-888-332-3234 or 416-645-8080.

— COURTESY LANDLORD AND TENANT BOARD

LTB.GOV.ON.CA

Chan in charge — Canadian in front with world-record score

Patrick Chan celebrates after the end of his performance in the men's short program at the World Figure Skating Championships at Budweiser Gardens on Wednesday night. The 22-year-old from Toronto began his charge for his third consecutive world title with a victory in the short program and a world-record score of 98.37. For the full story, go to metronews.ca. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Duhamel, Radford 2nd after short program

Pairs competition. Ontarians poised to improve on their fifth-place finish last year, trail Russia's Volosozhar and Trankov

Meagan Duhamel stomped her feet and shook her fists, and then took a running leap into her partner's arms.

Duhamel and Eric Radford laid down a pairs short program Wednesday good enough to leave the Canadians in second place at the World Figure Skating Championships — the highlight thus far of a partnership only three years in the making.

"I felt sick to my stomach all day," Duhamel said through a wide grin. "We were so nervous all morning, we put a huge amount of pressure on ourselves, our whole lives have been geared toward being on the podium but more so in the last year."

Duhamel, from Lively, Ont., and Radford, from Balmertown, Ont., scored 73.61 points for their virtually flawless skate. Duhamel left the Budweiser Gardens crowd laughing at her exuberant celebration at centre ice.

Tatiana Volosozhar and Maxim Trankov of Russia are the leaders, scoring 75.84 for their sultry skate. Four-time world champions Aliona Savchenko and Robin Szolkowy of Germany scored 73.47 to leave them third.

Kirsten Moore-Towers of St. Catharines and Dylan Moscovitch of Toronto are fifth with a score of 69.25.

Duhamel and Radford, who teamed up three years ago, were fifth at last year's world championships in Nice, France, and said that every day since they'd been aiming at the podium in London.

The 27-year-old Duhamel, wearing a red sequined dress, and 28-year-old Radford, in khaki shirt and suspenders, had the most ambitious program of the afternoon. They landed huge side-by-side triple Lutzes and then went straight into a textbook throw triple Lutz that had Duhamel grinning until the final seconds of the program in front of a crowd dotted with several dozen Canadian flags. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Meagan Duhamel is thrown by her partner Eric Radford during the pairs short program at the World Figure Skating Championships at Budweiser Gardens on Wednesday. The Canadian pair is in second place.
PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

On tap

Thursday at Budweiser Gardens:

- Ladies short program, 10:40 a.m.
- Ice dance short program, 5:20 p.m.

OHL

Stolarz shines as Knights earn road win in Erie

Anthony Stolarz made 30 saves Wednesday as the London Knights defeated the Erie Otters 3-1.

Owen MacDonald, Bo Horvat and Miles Liberati had the goals for London (48-13-5), which got two assists from Josh Anderson.

Connor Crisp scored the only goal for Erie (18-40-8). Oscar Dansk made 21 saves in taking the loss.

The Knights played without three key regulars — defenceman Scott Harrington and forwards Seth Griffith and Matt Rupert. Griffith, who has missed the past month with a hand injury, and Rupert have a combined 59 goals and 128 points this season. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

Head shot earns Perry 4-game ban

Anaheim Ducks forward Corey Perry has been suspended for four games for elbowing Minnesota Wild forward Jason Zucker in the head.

Zucker was helped off the ice after the late hit in the second period of the Ducks' 2-1 win over the Wild on Tuesday. He did not return.

Perry was assessed a major penalty for interference and a game misconduct on the play. He will forfeit $115,000 US in salary. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NFL

Welker agrees to deal with Broncos

Wes Welker is saying goodbye to Tom Brady and hello to Peyton Manning.

After spending six years with Brady in New England, the Pro Bowl receiver agreed to a two-year, $12-million US deal Wednesday to team up with Manning in Denver.

Welker's five 100-catch seasons are the most in the NFL. He has been selected to the Pro Bowl in each of his past five seasons and was an All-Pro four of the past five years.

Welker caught 118 passes for 1,354 yards and scored six touchdowns last year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Make your own decisions today and live with the consequences. Nothing bad is going to happen at all but you must be prepared to go out on a limb and risk being the odd one out.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
If someone is giving you a hard time then by all means give them a hard time in return. But make sure you get it right as this is one of those days when too much emotion could lead to costly mistakes.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Someone who claims to be one thing is something else entirely. You are advised to take what they tell you with a large grain of salt, especially if it sounds too good to be true.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Sometimes you are too sensitive for your own good but today you will go to the other extreme. You just cannot be bothered to respond to other people's criticisms.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You need to open your eyes and be aware of the trends that are taking shape. Business and financial matters, in particular, could cause a few problems today so make sure you are in control at all times.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Friends and loved ones don't want to do what you want to do, which is frustrating. Compromise is possible but you must be serious about it. If you fail to deliver on what you promise, it could cause a rift.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Someone wants to undermine your confidence. Don't let them. Keep things in perspective today and, above all, don't let trivial matters, or trivial people, upset you.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Let the world know you are vulnerable. For too long you have given the impression that you are as cold as ice. You're not. You know it's an act. It's time other people knew it too.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Someone has deceived you and, of course, you are not in the least bit happy about it. But no matter how hard done by you feel you must not blow your top. If you do, you will only make matters worse.

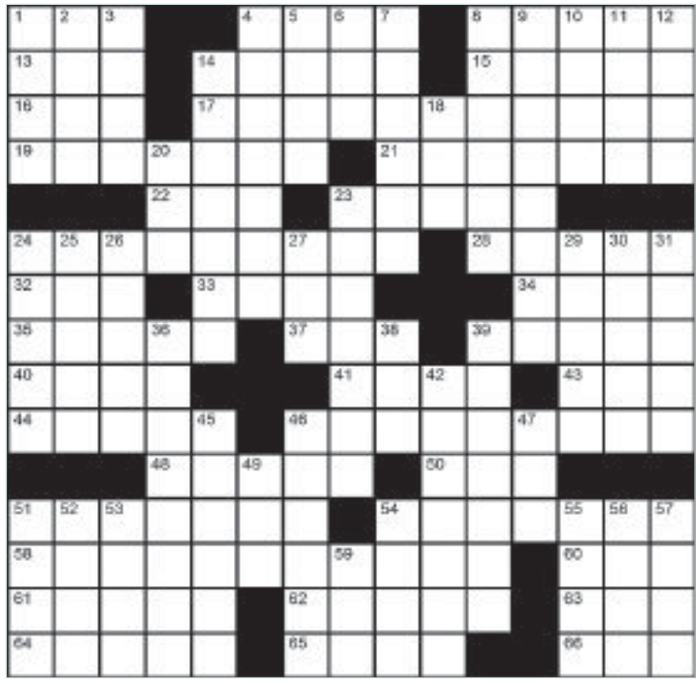
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You are trying too hard to live up to what other people expect of you. It's what you expect of yourself that matters, nothing more, nothing less. Be yourself, now and always.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You may have made up your mind about a personal matter but you should keep it to yourself for now. The planets indicate that your views will change radically over the next few days. Leave wriggle room.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
No matter how loudly someone says you are on the wrong track you must ignore them and carry on as before. Even if they are right — and they're not – it doesn't matter. All roads lead to where you need to go. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

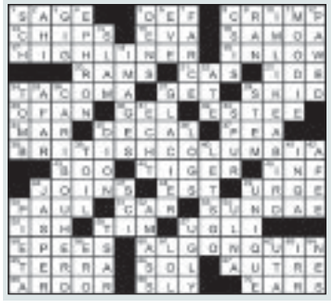
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Concert-goer's purchase, for short
4. Nicknamed baseball star, _-__
8. Norway-like feature in Gros Morne National Park, Nfld.
13. 'Buff' add-on
14. Friend, in Florence
15. Keenly interested
16. Playboy Mansion's man, for short
17. First Canadian astronaut in space: 2 wds.
19. Get back together
21. Mid-afternoon, ___ ___
22. UN workers' gr.
23. Ms. O'Donnell
24. Comedian/actor from Newmarket, ON: 2 wds.
28. Its capital is Damascus
32. Irish actress Ms. O'Connor
33. Nautical ropes
34. Director Mr. Howard's
35. Jazz singer, Carmen __
37. However
39. Attach a patch: 2 wds.
40. Light baseball hit
41. "I'd hate to break up _ __..."
43. Hydrocarbon suffix
44. Mr. Hershiser's of baseball
46. 'A.' of Sir John A. Macdonald
48. Shield in Greek mythology
50. In favour
51. Princess Diana's maiden name
54. Snug
58. Main building on Parliament Hill: 2 wds.
60. Tic-Tac-Toe losing row
61. Mr. Schwarzenegger, to fans
62. Cordiality
63. NFL's Bengals, on scoreboards
64. Respond
65. Belonging to Axl Rose's rock gr.
66. Senators, on scoreboards

Down
1. Wild goat-like animal (1986)
2. __ Wyck (Book of 1941 by Victoria artist Emily Carr)
3. Bean curd product
4. Romantic
5. Laugh: French
6. Line of work [abbr.]
7. PetSmart purchase: 2 wds.
8. "__ Bueller's Day Off"
9. Thornfield Hall governess: 2 wds.
10. Decorative curved arch
11. Harvest
12. Play like Ringo
14. Running-behind person's query, "__ __?"
18. Ohs partners
20. Mr. Cage, to pals
23. Closes again
24. Extra large
25. Acquire, as debt
26. Seine tributary in France
27. "Video Games" singer: Lana Del __
29. Was using oars
30. Hole-__-__
31. Actor Ed
36. East Coast ocean
38. Dangerous fly, when doubled
39. "__ & Hutch" (2004)
42. Anticipates
45. Clandestine
46. Car safety feature
47. TLC's "What __ to Wear"
49. "Gosh."
51. Red Hot Chili Peppers song: "__ Tissue"
52. Father: French
53. Resort town in Sicily
54. Movie genre, Film __
55. "The __-Motion" by Little Eva
56. Leave
57. Elvis Presley hit: "__ Be Cruel"
59. Alphabet sequence

Yesterday's Crossword



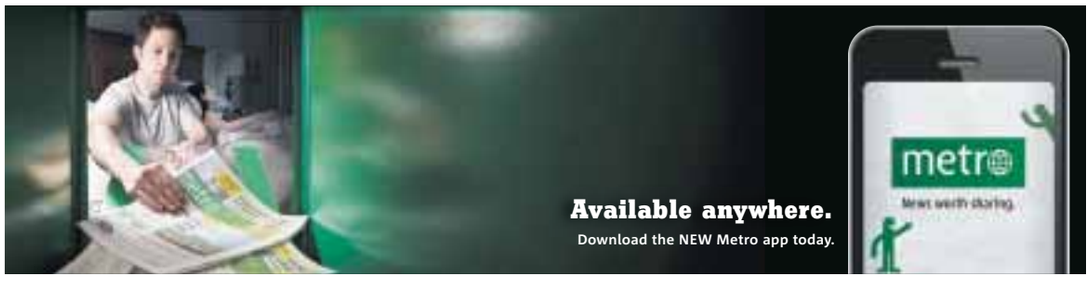
Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	4				8			
3			9	5		6	4	
6		1					9	
	1	5		4				
			2		9			
				7		3	2	
	8					9		5
	9	2		6	3			7
			1				8	

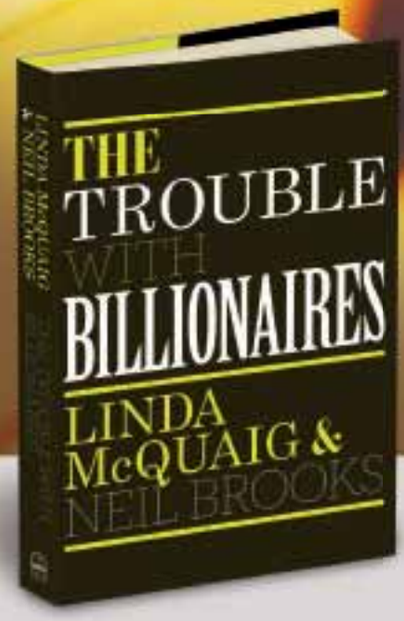
Yesterday's Sudoku

4	3	6	5	7	1	8	2	9
7	1	8	9	2	4	3	6	5
2	9	5	6	8	3	1	4	7
3	2	9	8	4	6	5	7	1
6	4	1	3	5	7	9	8	2
5	8	7	1	9	2	4	3	6
9	5	3	7	6	8	2	1	4
1	6	2	4	3	5	7	9	8
8	7	4	2	1	9	6	5	3



A Conversation with Linda McQuaig

Think about this... in the late 1970s, the average CEO made 25 times the average worker. Today that CEO's salary is 250 times higher than yours.



Wednesday March 20, 2013 at 7pm
Wolf Performance Hall, Central Library
251 Dundas Street

6:30pm Doors open, 7pm Public talk and Q&A followed by book sales and signing

Journalist and best-selling author Linda McQuaig has developed a reputation for challenging the establishment. Join us for an evening of lively conversation as she speaks about her latest co-authored book "The Trouble with Billionaires".

Our society tends to regard large fortunes as evidence of great talent or accomplishment. Yet the vast new wealth isn't due to an increase in talent or effort at the top, but rather to changing social attitudes legitimizing greed and government policy changes that favour the new elite. Eye-opening on multiple levels, "The Trouble with Billionaires" sparks debate about the kind of society we want.

London InterCommunity Health Centre

Tickets are $10.00 at the door or in advance by calling 519-660-0875 x450

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